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☰★ When The Star Flew

[image]

[image]

In the dark of night

The stars light up the sky

In the brightest part of the dark

The shooting star will guide the way

Read but not copy

Appreciate but not steal

Credit to Erin Hunter

For such an amazing story

Join in to the adventure of StarClan

Vote to express your liking

Comment to record your feelings

Now here's the beginning

A chance for this book

A world to me

Warm regards, non-stop supports

The book for you

May StarClan guide your path

Now let us begin

Awards

~

The Spring Awards **2020** *//* **1***st Place*

(To be posted)

~

The Future Awards **2020** *//* **1***st Place*

[image]

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The Dandelion Awards **2020** *//* **1***st Place*

[image]

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The Graphomania Awards **2020** *//* **3***rd Place*

[image]

All rights reserved © Twilightbreeze **2020**

[image]

☰★ Allegiances

[image]

[image]

What is Warrior Cats?

Warrior cats are wild cats who are not pets. They form clans and live together in the wild, usually have their own camp and territories. They treasure the Warriors Code a lot and they value loyalty above all. Wars, battles, and deaths are quite often, therefore, there are usually a big number of cats in one clan.

What is the Warrior Code?

1. Defend your Clan, even with your life.

2. You may have friendships with cats from other Clans, but your loyalty must remain to your Clan, as one day you may meet them in battle.

3. Do not hunt or trespass on another Clan's territory.

4. Elders, queen, and kits must be fed before apprentices and warriors. Unless they have permission, apprentices may not eat until they have hunted to feed the elders. If any warrior or apprentice is sick or injured, they may eat while the elders, queens, and kits are eating.

5. Prey is killed only to be eaten. Give thanks to StarClan for its life.

6. A kit must be at least six moons old to become an apprentice.

7. Newly appointed warriors will keep a silent vigil for one night after receiving their warrior name.

8. A cat cannot be made deputy without having at least one apprentice.

9. The deputy will become Clan leader when the leader dies, retires, or is exiled.

10. After the death, retirement, promotion (to a leader status), or exile of the deputy, the new deputy must be chosen before moon high.

11. A of all four Clans is held at the full moon during a truce that lasts for the night. There shall be no fighting among Clans at this time. must be checked and daily. Challenge all trespassing cats.

12. No warrior can neglect a kit in pain or danger, even if the kit is from a different Clan.

13. The word of the Clan leader is the warrior code.

14. An honorable warrior does not need to kill other cats to win their battles unless they are outside the warrior code or if it is necessary for self-defense.

15. A warrior rejects the soft life of a kittypet.

16. Each Clan has the right to be proud and independent, but in times of trouble, they must forget their boundaries and fight side by side to protect the four. Each Clan must help the others so that no Clan will fall.

What is StarClan?

StarClan is worshipped by the clans in the territories, they are a group of dead cats who were loyal to their former clans. They gave prophecies and protected the clans. They showed the trial of wisdom

This is a book about the afterlives of cats in StarClan, please enjoy!

~

[image]

The ranks in StarClan is different from the one in the other clans. The special positions are not mentioned in the official book of Warrior Cats and they are all my creation. Please do not copy the ideas like you hope that others will not do so too. You might find them strange, but hope you find them interesting too. Some of the characters that you will find them familiar as they are from the official books of Erin Hunter. Credit to Erin Hunters of those characters. Here are the descriptions of the positions.

LEADER – Like in the clans in the lake territory, there is a leader...no, corrections. There are leaders. Once a leader dies, they will continue being one in StarClan along with their leader ancestors, but their duties will be changed. They need to meet with other clan leaders in StarClan representing their own clan and watch over the whole clan, also briefly joining in the prophecy telling part with their deputies and medicine cats. Sometimes, they have to deliver prophecies to the living cats, but this job is usually done by medicine cats. As usual, the leaders always play the leading role in StarClan and highly respected by the clanmates.

DEPUTY – As I mentioned before in the leader's description, deputies keep their position once they are in StarClan, but their job is mainly about the connection between StarClan and their original clans. They get reports from the watchers (later mention) and think of prophecies to warn the clan, sometimes seeking advice from the medicine cats (not leaders). But the delivery of the prophecies will mainly be carried out by medicine cats or leaders. The leaders always seek advice from their deputies.

MEDICINE CAT – As usual, medicine cats' jobs are healing, herb collecting and all about prophecies. True, and these are their jobs in StarClan. They take part in the process of prophecies and complete the deliveries to the living cats with the help of the leaders. They also walk into the living cats' dreams to tell them about important things. They are usually the guardians (later mention) that guard spirits to StarClan. They are one of the important connections with the living cats apart from healing.

WATCHER – Once a warrior or apprentice dies, he will either be a watcher, hunter or patroller, based on their talents and skills. There will not be fighters unless needed so there is no separate position.

Watchers need to circle around the Starpool which can show the clan they belonged to and watch over the clan. They need to do a daily report to the deputies about the cats' deaths or emergencies. They take turns to do this duty when the other watchers take a little break from watching. Watchers cannot switch duties with the other cats that are not watchers.

HUNTER – As mentioned, another position of former warriors or apprentices can be hunters. Hunters, obviously, need to hunt for the clan as the others have their own work to do. Hunters ensure the food supplies of StarClan and they cannot switch duties with the others that are not hunters like watchers.

PATROLLER – In every clan in StarClan, each clan has to send cats to patrol the group together with other clans in StarClan and the cats with this position are former warriors or apprentices. But later, patrollers just need to patrol their own ground once the clans are divided.

QUEEN – Queens take care of the apprentices and kits in StarClan. The queens in the clans will continue being queens in StarClan as they have the experience of taking care of kits. If they are free, they have the privilege to join the watchers or hunters.

KIT – Kits that die before they are made apprentices. They need to be taken care of by a queen.

ADVISOR – Former elders in the clan. They are the most experienced in a clan, so they are always being asked for advice. If they are free, they have the privilege to join the watchers or hunters like the queens but they have to rest very often to restore their energy.

GUARDIAN – In StarClan, everyone will be a guardian. A guardian means guarding a dead cat spirit that once played an important role in their life before so everyone may be chosen to be a guardian. A guardian needs to lead the cat to StarClan and introduces things about StarClan to him.

This adventure is happened based on the fact that Hawkwing and Pebbleshine, Tree and Violetshine, Leafstar and Billystorm

break up and live a new life with Hawkwing and Leafstar, Violetshine and Billystorm being mates also their later generations. Yes, this is strange, totally. But just to let you know about this.

Reading through all of the characters are NOT NECESSARY, they just give you a basic knowledge of the characters.

Please enjoy!

~

[image]

StarClan

SkyClan (deceased)

LEADER

Leafstar – pale cream-and-brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Goosestar – grey-and-white pelted tom with hazel eyes

Twistedstar – ginger pelted tom with a twisted leg and brown eyes

Oakstar – dark brown furred she-cat with black spots and green eyes

DEPUTY

Hawkwing – dark grey pelted tom with yellow eyes

Foxspots – orange-and-white pelted tom with green eyes

Honeyfoot – cream pelted she-cat with yellow paws and brown eyes

Applespark – reddish brown-furred tom with blue eyes

Whitestripe – white-and-grey pelted tabby tom with hazel eyes

Deafears – ginger furred tom with dark brown eyes and deaf ears

MEDICINE CAT

Ravenwind – black pelted she-cat with light blue eyes

Twilightbreeze – snowy white-and-silver furred she-cat with a fluffy tail and bright blue eyes

WATCHER

Mudblossom – mud-colored furred she-cat with green eyes

Birdflight – pale ginger furred tom with white paws and blue eyes

Waterripple – blue pelted tom with white stripe shaped like ripples and yellow eyes

Splashleap – blue pelted tom with amber eyes

HUNTER

Sandpatch – ginger pelted tom with white patches and amber eyes

Sootfall – black pelted tom with light blue eyes

Whitefur – white-furred she-cat with yellow eyes

Wildspring – brown-and-ginger pelted tom with brown eyes

Fernheart – white pelted she-cat with grey spots and amber eyes

PATROLLER

Harefur – grey-furred she-cat with hazel eyes

Minnowtail – light grey-furred she-cat with blue eyes

Bluepaw – blueish grey-furred she-cat with yellow eyes

Graypaw – dark grey pelted she-cat with brown eyes

QUEEN

Cloudflower – white pelted she-cat with ginger paws and amber

eyes

Softpelt – soft white-furred she-cat with black paws and yellow eyes

Yellowblossom – yellow pelted she-cat with amber eyes

Whiskerpetal - beautiful white-and-ginger furred she-cat with long whiskers and watery hazel eyes

KIT

Tinykit – dark brown pelted she-kit with brown eyes

ADVISOR

Violetshine – white pelted she-cat with black splotches and yellow eyes

Sorrelpool – tortoiseshell and ginger pelted she-cat with yellow eyes

Poppyshine – tortoiseshell she-cat with brown eyes

Larkwing – ginger furred tom with brown spots and hazel eyes

☰★ Aesthetic

[image]

Twilightbreeze

[image]

Ravenwind

[image]

Mudblossom

[image]

Deafears

[image]

Fernheart

[image]

Blazesky

[image]

Waterripple

[image]

Whitestripe

[image]

All aesthetics and the cover are made by me. If you want a request, feel free to check out Sunrise~ A Graphic Shop to request!

☰★ Music

[image]

Theme song

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□. » [Run Free] «

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□. » [Shooting Star] «

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☰★ Art

[image]

Here is a collection of arts by me and my friends. Thanks for your amazing works and your amazing talents will be featured. Thank you for bringing my characters to life and your non-stop supports.

Featherfrost and Twilightbreeze

[image]

Featuring the talent of myself

Twilightbreeze

[image]

Featuring the talent of KitttensLuvKupcakes7

Waterripple, Featherfrost, Sleekpaw, Bluepaw (from left to right)

[image]

Featuring the talent of Feline_Feelings

Fernpaw (heart), Twilightpaw (breeze), Deafears, Ravenwind (from left to right)

[image]

Featuring the talent of Feline_Feelings

Whitestripe, Songberry, Twilightpaw (breeze), Featherpaw (frost) (from left to right)

[image]

Feature the art talent by Fate209

Twilightpaw (breeze), Fernpaw (heart) (from left to right)

[image]

Feature the art talent by -ploot

More to come!

Press the button to start the adventure of Starclan --->

☰★ Prologue

Moonlight shone over the five clans, Silverpelt appeared in the quiet sky. Night fell, the blue sky was spotted with countless little stars. The beautiful stars that shone in the sky, although not as brilliant as the sun or as shiny as the moon, they sprinkle the dreamy light into the world, lighting the mysterious world at night.

The shooting star dashed over the dark sky and left its long tail behind. A black pelted she-cat stood under the night sky, looking at the shooting star in the dimmed sky. Beside her, a snowy white-furred she-cat glanced at the shooting star, seeing it disappear from her sight, her fur flashing like silver and shining in the dark.

"Ravenwind, why do you bring me here?" The white-furred she-cat walked closer to the black pelted she-cat, pawsteps quiet but quick. She saw her mentor glancing at the night sky like it is the most interesting thing in the whole universe.

"Why are there stars in the sky?" She mewed.

"Twilightpaw, each star is an ancestor of SkyClan. Once a cat left the clan, they would go to Starclan." Ravenwind mewed, still staring at the stars.

"But Oakstar said that StarClan was not even real!" Twilightpaw stared at the sky puzzledly.

"Well, medicine cats believed in StarClan. They got prophecies from it." Ravenwind mewed as Twilightpaw nodded and stared at the sky again, seeing another shooting star dashed over the sky.

Suddenly, an image rushed into her head. A black pelted cat lied on the Thunderpath, blood soaked her pelt. Twilightpaw was puzzled and she was terrified to see this scene.

What was the meaning of this?

She wondered. Her bright blue eyes shining like stars as her gaze fixed on Ravenwind, who closed her eyes and stood silently. Under a sky of the perfect night velvet, under stars so brilliant that they drew the eyes of StarClan above, Ravenwind's pelt was barely visible in the dark and the image flashed into her mind once again.

Did that mean anything?

She glanced at the stars above, seeing the stars winking. How many cats that she had lost. How many cats that sacrificed. How many cats left without farewell. She did not know.

Waterripple. Whitestripe. Birdflight. Yellowblossom.

Many who were lost, lost in the stars.

But they would always be there, looking at the clans.

There was always a light they craved, for without it what was their world?

Would they become creatures who haunted their dreams of the night forever?

Cats sought the stars, the chance to stand up and face their fear, to see the beauty and be beautiful.

And there was always hope. There would be.

Ravenwind glanced at Twilightpaw, worry flooded her eyes as she interrupted her thoughts. The darkness faded, another night passed as the sun peeked at the unawaking territories.

"Anything happened, Twilightpaw? Are you ok?" Twilightpaw found out that she was trembling as the thought of a cat's death clouded her head.

"I am fine...It was time to go back to SkyClan. Let's go!" Twilightpaw raced down the hill, Ravenwind chasing after her. Twilightpaw stopped in front of Thunderpath, glancing around.

She crossed the Thunderpath carefully and suddenly, a monster

came out of nowhere, rushing to Twilightpaw.

It was too late!

The bright light blinded her eyes as Twilightpaw struggled to see clearly. Her ears rang as screams and shouts flooded her mind. She tried to move backwards, but her paws did not co-operate.

She was ready for the sudden pain as she closed her eyes, feeling the icy claws of death ripping her pelt, into her heart.

Nothing happened.

She opened her eyes cautiously, getting used to the light that was darkened suddenly without the monster.

Everything was as peaceful as before as Twilightpaw released a breath that she did not realise holding.

Just then, she spotted something.

Something black appeared in front of her eyes as her vision started to focus. The red was shinning under the pale moonlight. Twilightpaw looked at the black figure lying on the ground once her view was clear again, red soaked the figure's pelt. This is the same as what she saw.

"Ravenwind?" Twilightpaw bent down and looked at her mentor.

Ravenwind lied on the ground and mewed weakly, "Please take care of SkyClan. Even though you haven't finished your lessons on herbs, but I know that you can handle this. I am going to join StarClan."

Twilightpaw stared mindlessly at her mentor, not knowing what to do. The talkative self of her disappeared. She was speechless. She inspected her wounds as she sighed.

There was no cure.

Ravenwind died to save her from the monster and Ravenwind was not scolding her again. She gave her farewell and affirmation of her work on being a medicine cat.

But a bigger question clouded her mind.

Could she foresee the future?

Twilightpaw stared at the sun that was rising in the sky. The sun made Ravenwind's pelt shine. "Ravenwind, I am going to bring you back to SkyClan. I promise you." Sunlight sparked the dew which hung on the leaves, reflecting the light that shone like stars. The gentle breeze brushed her pelt to fill in her courage and confidence. Twilightpaw's pelt sparked under the morning sun as she carried Ravenwind. Long shadows appeared on the ground.

At the same time, a pair of green eyes flashed away from a bush nearby...

☰★ Chapter 1

[image]

Darkness

Silence

Red

Blackout...

Opening her eyes, Twilightbreeze found herself lying in the dark, trembling. She searched for wounds on her back, still remembering the rock falling straight on her when she pushed Sleekpaw away but finding them all vanished. She glanced around the dark. This feeling was not like standing in the middle of the night without the dim moonlight, it felt like the whole world disappeared, fading into nothing. Cold shot up and spread inside her body like lightning and electricity, making her fur straightened up.

Thousands of thoughts clouded her mind, making her miserable. She lost her direction. Who was she? Where was she? Where were the others? She did not have an answer.

She shouted many names, Featherfrost, Sleekpaw, Ravenwind, Blazesky, Waterripple... She was not even sure who would be here. Who was alive. Or who was alive in another place - StarClan. She wanted to stand up and wander around, but her legs seemed to call

off on a vacation. Eventually, she gave up, wrapping her white fluffy tail around herself, shivering in the dark. But she could not feel the softness of her fur. She could not feel anything.

There it came, a shot of light sparkled in the dark. Twilightbreeze unsheathed her claws, ready for whatever attack in front of her. Then, a not-so-familiar but familiar black pelted she-cat stood in front of Twilightbreeze. She blinked, not believing what she has seen standing in front of her.

"Ravenwind?" Twilightbreeze mewed. She was delighted to see her mentor again as she mewed, "Are you taking me to StarClan? Was this a dream again? Or a vision?"

Ravenwind mewed using the familiar cold tone, "You will see." Ravenwind's fur shone and she touched her nose with Twilightbreeze. She was shocked to see her fur shining too. Darkness covered them as a wave of colors and shapes flashed in front of Twilightbreeze's eyes. She did not even have time to look nearer for it, they faded away...

[image]

Twilightbreeze did not believe what was in front of her eyes when her sight started to be clear again. She asked, "Is this StarClan? Or you want me to experience something *bad* so I can be *grateful* for the *beautiful* scenery of StarClan?"

Ravenwind let out a dry laugh and mewed, "StarClan, it is."

Twilightbreeze glanced at the forest in front of her. There was a dim light as the darkness covered the sky, the shadow of the tall trees looking like a great monster, haunting her mind...She remembered the StarClan that she usually went to in her dreams that were full of light, peaceful cats and green plants. It was like traveling to an imagined place, although Twilightbreeze wished that this place was imagined by her too.

"Come on!" Ravenwind's call brought her back to reality. She walked on the hard ground, missing the soft ground she was stepping when she was in SkyClan. Suddenly, Ravenwind's voice

made her concentrate on what she was looking at.

"Here is the territory of SkyClan, you can smell the scent along this stream. The stream is shared equally with RiverClan. Tomorrow, I will bring you to the place where you can find herbs for healing."

The stream twisted and slithered like a snake, slow-flowing and languid in pace, slowly making her way toward the end, to the place where Twilightbreeze could not even see. The fainted starling flashed on the stream, like tiny little stars, greeting Twilightbreeze with winks. Twilightbreeze was sniffing beside the stream when a question popped into her head, "What do you mean? The clans are separated?"

Ravenwind sighed and she went closer, Twilightbreeze feeling her breath near her face, "Things changed..."

[image]

"Here is Sunningforest, the only place in StarClan that you cannot go, Twilightbreeze, although I know that you are very curious. It contains some dark secrets that you do not wish to know." Twilightbreeze followed her to the place under the bright stars. Starlight made polka-dots on the ground, lighting up the tree, young or old, where shelves grow. Birds tweeting sweetly, welcoming everyone to make a visit and the leaves on the trees dancing on the branches. The constant sound of the breeze, gently swaying in its caress.

How come I cannot go? This place is so amazing! The words are coming out of Twilightbreeze's mouth when she spotted that Ravenwind walked away already. She swallowed them back when she was struggling to catch up as Ravenwind stopped at the huge patch of grass.

"Here is the meeting place of SkyClan and that is the Great Oak." Twilightbreeze glanced around, unable to find the Great Oak. But when Ravenwind signaled her to look up, she found the huge oak shooting right into the sea of stars. Twilightbreeze watched wide-eyes as she glanced. That would take a lot of work to get up to the dens. Well, if there *were* dens.

Ravenwind continued, "A clan meeting will be held with the leaders standing on the branches and deputies sitting under the Oak. The medicine den was in a tree hole at the root of the Great Oak. StarClan cats sleep on the ground straightly instead of staying in a den except for deputies, leaders, and medicine cats. There are leaders, deputies, medicine cats, patrollers, watchers, hunters, queens, kits, and advisors, you know that right?"

Twilightbreeze nodded and she asked, "Wait! There is an 's' for 'leader'?"

Just at the moment, four cats stood on the Great Oak's lowest branch and one of them called, "Let all cats gather around the Great Oak!" Twilightbreeze stared at the cats on the tree, surprised to find that Leafstar, Goosestar, Twistedstar, and Oakstar, all looked familiar to her.

As the crowd gathered, more and more cats noticed Twilightbreeze's arrival. They looked at her curiously and continued their conversations. Some of them murmured a greeting and Twilightbreeze was delighted to meet with who she had lost before. But as a loud call silenced all of the cats, Leafstar announced, "I am here to announce that Twilightbreeze died in a rockfall saving Sleekpaw was honorable behavior. We now welcome Twilightbreeze to join StarClan and become a medicine cat!"

The crowd cheered and shouted her name as her eyes met with Whitestripe's, who was a deputy and father of her. He shot her a gaze which was one of the best praising he would have ever given.

She looked back at her father, then at the dim stars. The night came and the dim moonlight shone as the cats lied on the grass and had dreams. Twilightbreeze followed Ravenwind to the Great Oak and found the tunnel to the den. Twilightbreeze found a nice spot near a hole and covered the spot with moss. She looked up to the starry sky.

What would be awaiting for SkyClan and StarClan?

☰★ Chapter 2

[image]

"What do you mean? Herbs of rainbow colors?" Twilightbreeze glanced at the field of rainbow-colored plants, feeling overwhelmed. Ravenwind brought Twilightbreeze at dusk to Rainbow Hollow which was far from fascinating. Ravenwind's figure darkened as she mewed strictly, " Yes, there is a great difference but you must learn."

Twilightbreeze mewed back, "Wow! Another learning trip! Should I be *fascinated*?" Ravenwind rolled her eyes. Suddenly, Twilightbreeze smelt a cat that was very familiar to her in the bushes. Right then, pale ginger showed up in the green, moving swiftly and quietly like lightning. She remembered her best friend Fernheart who shared the same parents with this pale ginger tom that was still in Skyclan, sadness, and anxiety rushing to her mind.

"Birdflight?" The pale ginger tom stopped in the bushes and was shocked. Birdflight mewed nervously, "How...how...do you...you know I am here, Twilightbreeze?" His tail twisted uncomfortably and he stared at the ground like it was the most fascinating thing in the entire world.

Twilightbreeze smiled and joked, "Looks like you haven't upgraded your confidence yet!" Birdflight's figure relaxed as he cracked out a smile. Ravenwind's tail did a sharp flick and she put on an agitated expression as she mewed impatiently, "So, what's up? Twilightbreeze is having her lesson of herbs."

"Yes, how *sad* that the most *interesting* herb lesson is interrupted!" Twilightbreeze's mew earned her a side-glance from Ravenwind.

Birdflight's smile disappeared as he swallowed, said, "Well...well...well...Fernheart is coming..." "Fernheart?" Twilightbreeze missed her best friend very hard. They have been together since they were apprentices. Unlike Fernheart's brother,

she was brave and confident, also loyal to cats she loved and gave every support she could.

"What do you mean by 'coming'?" Twilightbreeze tried to control the excitement rising in her body as she needed to double-check that if she understood the meaning of *every single word*.

Birdflight claimed, "She is now coming to StarClan! Mudblossom and Waterripple saw her drown near the river! We have to send a guardian!"

"What about Twilightbreeze being the guardian?" Another mew was heard by Twilightbreeze as she turned and faced a blue pelted tom with stripes shaped like ripples. "And thanks for protecting Featherfrost and my kit." Waterripple mewed and everyone knew that it was rare that Waterripple appreciated or praised a cat.

Twilightbreeze smiled and looked straight into his eyes which the other cats would never dare to do so, "Your welcome. And it's what I have to do to save my sister and your kit. And I will try to be the guardian if you tell me to do so."

"But the rest of the herb lesson..." Ravenwind tried to form a sentence but it was interrupted by Waterripple, "Will be continued later." Ravenwind rolled her eyes behind Waterripple's back and signaled Twilightbreeze to follow her.

[image]

Birdflight and Ravenwind ran swiftly on the grass when Twilightbreeze struggled to catch up. She always knew that Birdflight was a great runner. The breeze brushed her fur softly as Twilightbreeze followed Ravenwind to the Starpool where watchers were seated.

Ravenwind ordered, "Touch your nose with the water like in the moonpool and it will bring you straight to Fernheart. You need to be quick before her spirit turns into a ghost and flies away. Recall what I said to you last time and do the same to her. Good luck."

The watchers moved away to make space as Twilightbreeze stared

at her reflection in the water. Her fur was shinning as she bent down and buried her nose into the water. But this time it was not the excitement of seeing Starclan when she was still the medicine cat of Starclan, her mind was filled with anxiety and nerve.

Bramblestar's ghost was her all-time favorite nursery tale told by Poppyshine, her favorite advisor.

It was about Bramblestar, a famous leader of ThunderClan, turned into a ghost spirit because he got lost on his way to StarClan, and all of these happened because Firestar, a former leader of ThunderClan which was being called the legend of ThunderClan, and Goldenflower, Bramblestar's mother, had a serious argument on who would the guardian be.

Goldenflower insisted that she should go but Firestar suggested calmly that Cinderpelt, a former medicine cat of ThunderClan who unfortunately hurt her legs due to a monster accident on Thunderpath, should go instead of her. Finally, Goldenflower gave in but they were still too late.

Although this was her favorite tale, whenever Poppyshine started her story, Fernkit would always cover her ears and shouted, "La la la I cannot hear what you are talking about!" Blazekit would run away as fast as he could and Birdkit would always hide under the moss. Featherkit would always excuse herself and leave the scene.

But Twilightkit never cared. She could help Poppyshine fetch some prey for the fresh kill and sat on the moss all day, just to listen to the tale and discussed the tale. Discovering Twilightkit's special interests in stars and StarClan, Ravenwind decided to take her in as a medicine cat. Of course, the reason was not only limited to this.

A question that she asked a long time ago but without receiving an answer was 'why would the cat's spirit run away? Could he be more patient?' Poppyshine did not answer. She always patted Twilightkit's head and mewed, "You will know soon enough."

When was soon enough?

After a twinkle of an eye, Twilightkit had already become a

medicine cat in StarClan. But still no answer. She was ready to figure this out herself.

Even though Twilightkit was addicted to the tale when she was little, she was still terrified by the idea of a ghost cat tailing her. She always glanced around and checked that if there any ghost cats following her when she told secrets to her friends. She felt pity for the hero of SkyClan - Roottail who could hear a ghost thought when he was still Rootpaw. She wondered if Fernheart's spirit would keep tailing her and said, "I am here."

This was creepy.

What if she was not fast enough? Once, Twilightpaw met a snake on her way to collect herbs and she struggled to fight the snake. She was being poisoned by the snake venom but luckily, Fernpaw appeared and fought with the snake. Although she had a few cuts, she managed to drag Twilightpaw back to camp and sought for help. If it wasn't for Fernheart, she would be in StarClan now like Tinykit, the only kit in StarClan.

Why if she messed up things? She was not completely confident although she memorized everything by heart. Especially when it came to life. She was not confident with her healing skills, so she was always the one who collected and mixed herbs, also inventing some new techniques and usage, leaving all the healings to Ravenwind.

But it was not the time to overthink things. Overthinking would cost delays. She banned down and touched her nose with the pool without one more second for hesitating.

I hope it won't be too late... A light sparked from the pool as Twilightbreeze disappeared from the view.

☰★ Chapter 3

[image]

Twilightbreeze stared at the night sky, the sky was darker than in Skyclan. The night's blackness covered some of the stars, making the rest who peeked out of the dark lonely.

Perhaps, it was StarClan's job to light up the sky. Like the amazing flowers that the two-legs grew and exploded in the sky.

Ravenwind gave her special permission to stay with her best friend one night, which was unexpected. Twilightbreeze glanced around as she saw the leaders and deputies went back to their den. Birdflight settled down under a pine tree while some lied down on the clearing. The stars' brightness was not enough to see the white pelted and grey spotted face, but she was clear that the she-cat was smiling at her.

"Twilightbreeze, I never imagined that Starclan was like this. I thought it was a place looking like a beautiful dream, but here it comes, looking like a nightmare!" Fernheart lied on the grass beside Twilightbreeze, watching the fainting stars.

"Me neither, Fernheart. I even said to Ravenwind that she brought me to this place to let me experience the bad and appreciate the real Starclan."

Fernheart let out a soft laugh as she whispered, "That's your sarcastic self. You are so brave that you even dare to say that Ravenwind!"

"Hey! Ravenwind isn't a monster! She is my former mentor after all, and she saved me from the monster in Thunderpath."

Twilightbreeze playfully put a paw on Fernheart's nose and they rolled on the ground. Suddenly, Fernheart stopped and stood up, her eyes staring straight into Twilightbreeze's.

"Why did you mention the terrible monster?"

"Exactly no reason." Twilightbreeze twisted her tail uncomfortably. She knew that her best friend discovered something.

"Don't you think that the monster accident happens to be a bit strange?" Fernheart mewed.

"Why do you think so? Hit by a monster in Thunderpath is quite common!" Twilightbreeze came near and saw that Fernheart froze. She looked like having something in her mind. Twilightbreeze continued, "Unless you are thinking of Blazesky?"

Fernheart's other brother Blazesky was exiled in Skyclan for stealing an important stone called Starstone. According to legends, Starstone was very important but for unknown reasons. Right after Blazesky was banished though he kept claiming that he was innocent, he disappeared after a monster crash which Cloudflower and Sorrelpool witnessed and he was believed dead.

"I just think that it was so strange, I just have a feeling..." Twilightbreeze put her tail around Fernheart, softly mewed, "How about a dream? Maybe you will know the answer in your dream!"

Fernheart nodded and they lied down on the grass. Twilightbreeze closed her eyes as she heard the gentle snore by her side. A shooting star flew through the dark sky...

[image]

"You failed your assignment again!" A low voice woke Twilightbreeze up. She turned her head and saw a ginger pelted tom, eying a dark brown furred cat.

A vision?

Twilightbreeze sat up straight, observing the two cats.

"Answer me! Why did you fail it again?" The ginger pelted tom stared at the other cats. Twilightbreeze could not see his eyes as his back was facing her, but she knew very clearly that there were flames in his eyes.

The dark brown furred she-cat's tail twisted nervously as Twilightbreeze was looking at their back, figuring out who they were. The she-cat mewed, "Sorry...But I swear to Starclan that I will complete this task well this time!"

The tom's voice rang in Twilightbreeze's ears as his voice filled with anger, "Swear to Starclan is useless, Starclan is useless. Then let's see. Keep an eye on her using whatever method and we will see about that. If you failed again, you know what you will get. Go now!"

The two cats disappeared in a flash of light and Twilightbreeze stared at the place where the cats were once sitting.

Whether she knew the cats or not, she must be aware. There would be a dark power rising under the brightness of the stars. But who should she trust?

[image]

Should she tell Ravenwind? That was serious! Or she should figure it out before she spoke up? What if she failed...?

"Hey, what happened to you? You memorized the herbs and how to use them in the speed of the light. You talked endlessly and I always told you to shut up. What gets into you now?" Ravenwind waved her tail in front of Twilightbreeze's eyes. Twilightbreeze blinked and saw Ravenwind's concerned eyes.

Sunbeams danced on the moss and herbs on the medicine cat den, making the color extra colorful and fascinating. But Twilightbreeze did not have time for appreciating that as she faced another problem.

"You put yellow herb into the purple herb pile." Ravenwind stared at her blankly as Twilightbreeze licked her chest fur, "Well, I guess I should *revise* the colors again, mentor!" Twilightbreeze mewed.

She put down her questions and continued on sorting herbs. Suddenly, she felt a warm breath on the side of her neck. She turned and found Ravenwind staring at her.

"Anything wrong, *mentor*?" She used her apprentice voice and mewed. A hint of a smile went on Ravenwind's face but it disappeared as fast as a shooting star.

"You are thinking about something? Care to say it out loud?" Ravenwind knew Twilightbreeze well enough to know that something was stirring in her mind.

Twilightbreeze felt siren ringing in her mind, echoing and repeating in her head. Panic spilled all over her head as time seemed to pause. Her mind raced to thousand of directions. This was the question she was always avoiding herself. Ravenwind was mysterious. Many things about herself were unknown as she kept them to herself. Would there be any secret connection between Ravenwind and the unknown group? She did not know what to do, so she chose the path that she thought was the most suitable.

"Uh...nothing. I really mean this."

☰★ Chapter 4

[image]

Twilightbreeze spat out the last herb into the Brown herbs pile, feeling bitterness encircled her tongue. "Whoever got poisoned will be *poisoned again* by these soon. Poor them!" Twilightbreeze swallowed a mouthful of Green herbs that tasted like catmint and mewed when chewing, which made her sound like saying, "Wheverotoisonedilleoisonedgainyeseoon"

Ravenwind cracked up as she shoved each pile of herbs on each leaf and rolled them up in the medicine cat den when Twilightbreeze was covering the ground with big oak leaves and moss in case of sick and injured cats. It was a quarter-moon ago since she received her vision but she hasn't forgotten the slightest bit of it. She kept the vision to herself, though she never stopped observing every cat's actions, seeing who was acting strangely.

"Well, here is the end of our work today. Let's go and get something to eat." Ravenwind announced as they were ready to leave the tree hole that was near the root of the Great Oak. Suddenly, pawsteps rang in Twilightbreeze's ears as she knew a cat was coming. *Who would it be?*

"May I see Twilightbreeze?" Hearing that familiar voice, Twilightbreeze knew that she must step out of the den to meet this cat. She could not wait to meet this cat as she went for the hole immediately. She jogged to the entrance with Ravenwind following behind and saw the ginger pelted tom with brown eyes who was already expected by her.

"Hello, Deafears. What's up?" Twilightbreeze tried to control the speed of speaking. Speaking in front of Deafears needed to be slow and short, which was very unlike her talkative self. Deafears stared at her, trying to figure out what she was saying before mewing, "Twilightbreeze, it was nice to meet you again here and I missed you. The deputies want to see you and it was important."

Facing Twilightbreeze's friend who was a deputy now, Ravenwind pointed her tail at the direction of the fresh-kill pile and walked away, leaving Twilightbreeze. Deafears led the way to the back of the Big Oak and climbed swiftly up to a tree hole at a branch.

"How is your dad Applespark treating you now? He must be so proud because you succeed in his spot!" Deafears turned to look at Twilightbreeze as she patted his back, forgetting that he had some...disability. She repeated again patiently, trying to open her mouth as wide as possible.

After several seconds, he replied, "Same old dad, ashamed of his deaf son." Twilightbreeze knew that he was only teasing, but she was no mousebrain. She could hear the bitterness in his deep voice.

The rest of the journey was silent until Deafears tapped the ground in a special pattern and entered a tree hole with Twilightbreeze behind.

In the hole, familiar faces of Hawkwing, Foxspots, Honeyfoot, Applespark, and Whitestripes were sitting on the ground covered with moss in a circle. Deafears led her to the circle and stuck his tail straight up, doing a flick sharply down. Twilightbreeze nodded as she understood that talking was hard for Deafears so he usually used gestures as she took a seat.

"Thanks for coming." Hawkwing started speaking, "May we ask you a question?" Twilightbreeze did not know what to expect, but she said, "Of course" anyway. She scanned through the cats sitting on the moss and her gaze landed on Whitestripe. No expressions or feelings are shown on his face but she could see the worry in his eyes.

"Thanks a lot for helping. We all know that you have the ability to foresee. Do you receive any visions lately?" Feeling her tongue tied and throat tightened, Hawkwing's question sparked the war of telling the vision or not. Another shot straight at the point. *I mustn't show that I am thinking of anything. I should act calm.* But another question kept spinning in her head.

"Sorry, but I am very curious. Isn't that StarClan deciding what will

happen and they can tell the clans?" Twilightbreeze thought through every wordings before they came out of her mouth.

Whitestripe looked at her with disbelief when Honeyfoot explained, "In StarClan, we cannot control what will happen and we just dream about what will happen from the stars."

"Dreams from the stars, telling you what will happen?"

"Yes, you are right." Honeyfoot continued, "But the stars stopped sending dreams for over twelve moons and we are panicking, not knowing what to do. SkyClan starts to lose trust in us. We all know that you have the ability to foresee, so do you have any visions lately so we can warn SkyClan?"

A serious battle broke out in Twilightbreeze's head as she asked more questions, trying to think through all the pros and cons of telling or not.

But this was none of SkyClan's business and she needed to find out whether it is true or not!

Hawkwing mewed after they answered all her questions, "What about your answer?"

"I haven't received any visions yet, but if I receive any, I will tell any of you immediately." She tried to spit the words as fast as possible, trying to look at the deputies straight in their eyes. She did not get used to telling lies, clearly that she was lack of the gene of that part.

Stay calm.

No panicking.

Everyone stared at one another in silence as Twilightbreeze's speech came to an end but Deafears' eyes landed on Twilightbreeze. She saw doubt in his eyes.

As a friend and a cat who had a special ability in sensing the cat's feelings, Twilightbreeze knew that Deafears could detect whether she was telling lies so she tried to act like she was telling the truth.

Then Hawkwing's figure relaxed, "Thanks for your cooperation and you may leave now. The rest of us are going to have a meeting."

Twilightbreeze walked to the hole and climbed down the tree. But a deep voice stopped her.

"Wait, Twilightbreeze. Can we have a little chat?"

☰★ Chapter 5

[image]

Twilightbreeze returned to the Medicine cat den with the smallest vole in her mouth. She was already late after the long talk with Deafears and just in time to get the last bit of food or she would be starving for the night.

Why didn't you tell us this? This is important, you know? I don't care whether it is true or not. We have to find out before this occurs. You mean one of them was a ginger pelted tom and the other was a dark brown pelted she-cat? You are sure that you don't find them familiar? Don't do this again! Tell us if you receive any more visions! Is that clear?

Not knowing the reason, Deafears' voice kept repeating in Twilightbreeze's head. She pushed these thoughts away as she walked into the den, setting the vole on the ground and took a bite. Not great, but not bad either. She could live. Ravenwind was too busy treating Sandpatch who was lying on the moss in pain to notice her arrival. It seemed like he was poisoned and Ravenwind hadn't packed the herbs yet.

Twilightbreeze stopped eating as she always put saving others in the first place. She ran to the pile of herbs and put some Brown herbs on a big leaf, ignoring the bad taste of the herb in her mouth. She rolled them up and handed it to Ravenwind.

"Hey, just in time. Wait, Twilightbreeze, since when you are here?" Ravenwind mewed with shock. Twilightbreeze took some Green herb for Sandpatch and herself to get rid of the bad taste of the medicine. She gave Sandpatch some Green herb as she swallowed some too.

She responded Ravenwind when chewing, "You were too concentrated on Sandpatch to notice my arrival." She turned to Sandpatch and continued, "Congratulations, Sandpatch. You are

going to have the *privilege* and *honor* to taste this *amazing* herb which no one except me has tried it before. The Green herbs will make it taste better."

After she teased, she regretted what she did when colors drained from Sandpatch's face. Ravenwind gave her an epic tail swing to warn her as Twilightbreeze stared at her paws. Sandpatch shot her a gaze as he took a cautious bite to the Brown herb. The air was suddenly silent in the den as Ravenwind and Twilightbreeze stared at each other.

"Twilightbreeze, go and collect herbs by yourself tomorrow. Sandpatch had a nasty poisoning." Ravenwind ordered as she broke the silence and her gaze told Twilightbreeze to keep her mouth shut.

Well, I have to keep a list of who cannot be teased to keep track. Twilightbreeze thought as she backed away and continued finishing her meal. Poisoning was not common in StarClan as the two-legs did not release harmful substances into their prey or water, nor did animals with venoms running wild in StarClan. But why would this occur there?

Twilightbreeze's mind was filled with thousands of questions, she did not really have spaces for more...

[image]

Twilightbreeze took a leaf from the Great Oak and set off for the Rainbow Hollow early in the morning. She reached the place at dusk and she started the collection of herbs. She gathered the herbs and packed them up using the leaf.

Suddenly, an image came into her mind. She put down the herbs and focused hard on it. She had no doubt that it was a vision. She saw the patrollers of the Skyclan in Starclan was having a serious argument by the river with Riverclan.

"You crossed the river first!" Twilightbreeze heard Harefur shouted to a RiverClan cat, "Isn't it true, Minnowtail?"

Minnowtail murmured in a low voice, "Yes..."

The Riverclan cat shouted back, "That is our river!"

"Since when it was Riverclan's?" A low voice was heard as Waterripple came out from a nearby bush, "If you keep saying that, I guess we have to fight!"

Larkwing followed Waterripple out to the cleaning beside the river and stood next to him. The Riverclan cats shouted, "Then we are going to keep saying that!"

Twilightbreeze came back to reality. The sunbeams danced on her pelt as she knew that she must hurry to stop all of these. She did not want any more patients.

Waterripple was known for his aggression and loyalty. He was one of the greatest warriors when it came to battles in SkyClan and the job of being a watcher was truly torturing to a cat who enjoyed battling.

With a grumpy Larkwing, a cranky Harefur, a timid Minnowtail, and two panicking apprentices, this battle would happen without a doubt and without a doubt too, it would not end very well. Even though she did not know exactly when this happened, her sense told her to hurry. Her senses had never been wrong before and it never did...

[image]

Twilightbreeze stuffed some Red herbs in her mouth and lifted the pack of herbs on her back. She chewed on the Red herbs when she went directly to the river. She saw Waterripple, Harefur and Larkwing fighting with three Riverclan toms, everything was the same with her vision. They had already started the battle. Twilightbreeze was still a bit too late to put a stop on this.

Waterripple went directly for the tom's back as he leaped and sliced the tom's back. The tom did not give up easily as he rolled over and pushed Waterripple on the ground.

The battle between Harefur and the tom was not going on very

well. Comparing to the strong tom, Harefur was far weaker. She was being dragged on the ground but she never released her bite on the tom's tail, drawing blood out of the tom. If Harefur was angry, she could be very scary. Finally, the tom grabbed a chance to get away from Harefur and Harefur lied on the ground, her belly bleeding.

Twilightbreeze made her way out of the crowd of Bluepaw, Graypaw, and Minnowtail to Harefur. She spat out the red herbs and put them on Harefur's wounds.

"I want to fight! I am fine! Let me go!" Harefur mewed when she was trying to stand up but failed. Twilightbreeze pinned Harefur's paws to prevent her from standing up and shifted her gaze back to the battle. Waterripple sank his teeth onto the Riverclan tom's legs but she knew that he was weak already. She must put an end to the battle before everything was getting out of control.

She moved closer to Bluepaw and mewed, "Can you help me to find the leaders and bring them here?" Bluepaw hesitated and she whispered, "But my father Waterripple..." Her voice was interrupted by Twilightbreeze, "Will be fine under my watch. Ok? Don't you trust your mother's sister?"

Bluepaw nodded as she quickly dived under the bushes and disappeared. Larkwing was licking his wounds on his paws and there was a deep cut on his face. Waterripple was surrounded by three toms and tried to fight his way out. He was already at a loss of energy. Waiting for the leaders to deal with this might be too late.

What should she do?

☰★ Chapter 6

[image]

Before she thought about a plan, Twilightbreeze quickly spread the chewed Red herb on Larkwing's wounds and came to the rescue.

Even though she was not a warrior, nor she was stronger than the toms, she could not just sit back and watch her clanmates fighting. She saw the toms pinned Waterripple's paws and a tom's teeth found its way to Waterripple's throat as she leaped on the tom who was ready for the killing bite and sliced him using her claws.

Everyone was shocked by her sudden move. Waterripple took on two toms at once as Twilightbreeze lost her balance after a mild shake from the tom and lay on the ground. The tom took advantage of the chance. He tried his sharp claws to scratch Twilightbreeze but Twilightbreeze was faster. She managed to bite on the tom's leg, ignoring the pain from the deep cuts on her back. There was no back away from the fight.

A white-and-gray tabby tom took on the tom Twilightbreeze was fighting with and she released her hold on the tom. Knowing that the leaders and deputies had come, Twilightbreeze saw they formed a circle as Whitestripe chased away the toms from the ground of Skyclan.

Twilightbreeze was relieved for the cats coming to the rescue but later, she found out that she was in big trouble for joining in a fight but she did not care anymore.

Twilightbreeze sat up, unpacking the package of herbs as she put some more red herbs in her mouth to chew on. She spat them out and put some on Larkwing and Waterripple's wounds, ignoring her own cuts as she found out she had run out of supply of Red herbs.

"Care to explain what were you all doing here? Picking a fight with RiverClan?" Leafstar mewed, her voice had a hint of anger which

was uncommon. Twilightbreeze scanned the crowd and saw all the deputies and leaders were circling them. "They claimed that the river was theirs, and they crossed the river to our border." Waterripple mewed as Twilightbreeze pressed some Black herbs on his wounds to stop the sting of the wounds.

"Still, fighting privately or triggering a war is not the right thing to do," Leafstar's gaze shifted to Twilightbreeze as she continued, "What about you, Twilightbreeze? You are a medicine cat and your responsibility is to keep the clans peaceful." Twilightbreeze felt Leafstar's stare fixed on her as she moved on and pressed Black herbs on Larkwing's wounds.

Before Twilightbreeze even thought of a way to respond, Waterripple mewed, "She saved me from the killing bite of one of the toms. If it is not for her, I will never live."

Twilightbreeze was totally unexpected for Waterripple's outburst and she nearly choked down the Red herbs which she was chewing. She spat out the Red herbs as she said, "Thanks, Waterripple. I can't just sit back and watch a SkyClan cat die in front of my eyes."

Twilightbreeze caught the leaders and deputies exchanging glances as Waterripple responded.

"I can't believe that RiverClan sank that low!" Twilightbreeze heard Foxspots whispered.

Honeyfoot struggled as she whispered, "That complicated a lot of things."

Whitestripe joined the conversation by adding, "Perhaps we had to pay the leaders and deputies of RiverClan a visit soon."

"You are right, we can not ignore this," Hawkwing replied as they shifted their gaze back to Twilightbreeze, Waterripple, Larkwing, and Harefur.

"In that case, Waterripple, Larkwing, and Harefur, please follow Twilightbreeze to the medicine cat den for further treatment. We need a talk with Riverclan." Leafstar ordered as Twilightbreeze

packed up the herbs and led the way to the medicine cat den.

[image]

After an hour-long lecture hosted by Ravenwind on not to join in a fight, Twilightbreeze went to the river with a leaf to get some water for the mixing of herbs after treating her wounds. When she reached the river, she was shocked to see the leaders and deputies of RiverClan and SkyClan were arguing.

"Your warriors crossed our border!" Goosestar shouted as he stepped forward and decreased the distance between the two clans. "Your warriors claimed that the river was shared by both clans!" A leader shouted. "That is the truth!" Goosestar shouted back. Twistedstar tried to tell him to be calm but failed. Goosestar's eyes were lit with fire as he stepped nearer to the leader.

Things were not going on very well.

At that time, Deafears turned and saw Twilightbreeze witnessing at the argument. He closed the distance between Twilightbreeze and whispered, "I guess Riverclan wants a battle for the privilege of owning the river."

A battle? When Starclan was in danger already, they were fighting against each other? How could Starclan survive this?

"Soon or later this will happen. But we have to put a full stop on this." Twilightbreeze had confidence in this.

☰★ Chapter 7

[image]

Twilightbreeze could feel someone was tailing her, and she knew exactly who was doing that without looking.

"Let me guess, are you going to follow me and see if I have some private storage of snacks to share with you? Or you want to try some herbs to see why I chewed on them?" Unmistakably, when Twilightbreeze turned her head, she found a mud-colored furred she-cat with green eyes staring at her. Mudblossom stared nervously at her, her tail twisted and her green eyes filled with panic.

Twilightbreeze was surprised by her action, as her enemy was the one who attacked her with words like venom in the lake territories whenever this happened. Twilightbreeze raised her eyebrows as she continued, it was not necessary to show mercy anyway, "I know! You want revenge, isn't it? That's right! How many times have I told you that Waterripple chooses to be with Featherfrost? You do not dare to let Featherfrost pay for this as she is popular, so you do that on me. I don't have choices and you don't listen, so I can just play along with you. Go on!"

Twilightbreeze expected Mudblossom to snap back as Mudblossom shot her a murderous glance, but she did not care. What was the use of impressing someone that did not worth impressing anyway? But Mudblossom kept quiet. "What has gotten in you today?" Twilightbreeze stared at Mudblossom's green eyes with flame, memories flashing back in her mind...

[image]

"Do you know you broke my family apart?" Mudpaw snapped as she rushed into the medicine cat den where Twilightpaw was sorting herbs with Ravenwind. Ravenwind was shocked by Mudblossom's sudden outburst as Twilightpaw asked, "What?"

Mudpaw roared, "Featherfrost and Waterripple were getting to be mates!" Twilightpaw knew about this and she was happy for her sister, but she knew that if she showed this emotion to Mudpaw, she would earn a smack or something worse for sure. "So? What was the relationship between this and me?"

Mudpaw shouted, "No relation? Featherfrost is your sister and Waterripple's former mate Suntail is my sister!" Twilightpaw knew very clear that what she would say afterward but she kept silent as Mudpaw continued, "This family was once perfect and amazing, but now, it is your curse to break this family into pieces, the later generation of Leafstar and Hawkwing!"

"What about you? Blaming this to the sister of the party. Then why don't you directly tell them? But act like a timid mouse and squeak behind the scene about how angry you are, trying to scare a medicine cat apprentice that is smaller than you but failed. Are you playing the Blame game?" Twilightpaw's words slipped out of her mouth before she found a way to swallow them back. But if she spoke them out, she acted like she was not afraid. Speaking up was not wrong anyway.

Mudpaw was shocked by her reply. She mewed, "How dare you...? I will make sure that your life will be tortured and worst than in the place of no stars. You will see!" She stormed away and stepped on the herbs she had collected.

Twilightpaw sighed as she saw the herbs on the ground, knowing that she needed to do all the work again and her life would be messed up...

[image]

"I am sorry..." The surprisingly soft voice gave Twilightbreeze a heart attack. Twilightbreeze tried to hide her emotion but failed. Mudblossom's green eyes showed another emotion but it was disappeared before she caught it.

"Yes," Twilightbreeze did a huge eye roll, "Should I say I am very *glad* that you know your mistakes? And *forgive* you for whatever you have done?"

Mudblossom continued, "I...I...I...knew that I was too awful to

you...I am sorry..." Judging from her tone, Twilightbreeze did not really think she meant this. She stared into the pair of green eyes and asked, "What do you want then? Should we *hug* it out? Come on, *Muddy*!"

Mudblossom mewed, "I don't deserve anything, but can we be friends?" Twilightbreeze was pretty sure that Mudblossom wanted to smack her with everything she had gotten while she was saying this but she still could not believe what she has heard. She felt something strange about Mudblossom, but she did not know where or exactly which spot.

Twilightbreeze could not believe what she was going to say, but it was the only way. And it felt so right to do this before further investigations.

"Sure, *why not*?"

☰★ Chapter 8

[image]

"What are you doing here, Twilightbreeze?" Fernheart asked when Twilightbreeze was sniffing on her, "Stop showing off your amazing sniffing skill. I know you are the best at this! Mudblossom said so too!"

Twilightbreeze knew that Fernheart was only teasing, but she could not stop being disappointed. She squeezed out a smile and mewed, "I just wondered if you sneaked into the medicine cat den and stole some sticky Black herb."

"What? Why did you assume that I did? I never set a foot into your *precious* medicine cat den!" Fernheart shoved Twilightbreeze away and she backed away too, leaving fox-length away from each other. But at least they were laughing.

"No need for dramas! I was just teasing how close you are with Mudblossom. It feels like you two are sticking together..." The words turned sour in her mouth as Twilightbreeze replied. Everything in the world paused. Fernheart and Twilightbreeze stared blankly at each other, awkwardness filled in the space between them. Twilightbreeze paced toward Fernheart as she tried not to show her disappointment.

"Sorry," Fernheart mewed, "I should have spent more time with you, but you were always busy with the medicine cat stuff. So I spent my time with Mudblossom."

Mudblossom. This name made Twilightbreeze's stomach turned sour, her mouth dried. Mudblossom insisted on following Twilghtbreeze everywhere she went at first, which she found very annoying. Then, Mudblossom started to know Fernheart and they got along very well. She always felt like the herbs, being completely ignored as she was in the middle of the two leaves.

Mudblossom's arrival ruined her life once again. Is this revenge? Twilightbreeze did not have an answer. Her best friend was being robbed, or stolen, which was unbearable. Whenever she saw Fernheart and Mudblossom whispering and gossiping as she missed all the fun, she felt disappointed.

"What are you talking about?" Twilightbreeze asked as Mudblossom and Fernheart laughing out loud that Fernheart nearly fell down.

Mudblossom's and Fernheart's laugh disappeared. They glanced at each other as Fernheart claimed, "None of your business."

Mudblossom worsened everything by adding it was classified information. Then she winked at Fernheart as they laughed again.

Twilightbreeze could only ignore. Ignore. Ignore.

But the scenes always replayed in her mind. Fernheart and Mudblossom having all the fun without her.

She felt frustrated. And *replaced.*

Is this the best revenge?

Taking away a friend who was always there?

Suddenly, she saw Mudblossom at Starpool, back facing her. Dark brown color. Long fur. Tail twisting. She found this familiar, but where? The vision showed before flashed back in her mind. *A ginger pelted tom, eying a dark brown furred cat... The dark brown furred she-cat's twisted nervously...* Mudblossom? An undercover? In StarClan?

The cloud over this matter dispersed and all it left was acting quickly. Twilightbreeze rushed from the clearing and went straight for the deputy den...

[image]

"Are you certain?" Deafears mewed as the leaders and deputies were in a serious debate on whether Mudblossom was an undercover or not.

Twilightbreeze shrugged as she whispered, "All the clues pointed to her." She did not know what to feel, hopeful or anxious. Deafears called out an emergency meeting when he heard about this to discuss the possibility of Mudblossom being the traitor.

Twilightbreeze twisted her tail as she scanned through the crowd of leaders and deputies. Leafstar scowled and looked suspicious. Goosestar was busy scolding at the fact of having traitors in the clan. Twistedstar remained quiet in the crowd, listening to the debate calmly. Oakstar interrupted the debate many times, adding her own opinions.

Looking at the deputies, the last scent of hope faded. Hawkwing doubted the possibility and claimed that it was impossible for Mudblossom to do that. Foxspots nodded as he pointed out many reasons that it was impossible confidently. Honeyfoot suggested a lot of reasons using her soft voice which was too sweet and soft for this serious debate. Applespark went against that Mudblossom was undercover and shouted that his later generations would never do that.

Whitestripe...Twilightbreeze found out that Whitestripe shot a cold gaze to her. Clearly, he sided against her.

Deafears felt her mood swing as he brushed his tail on her back. After a long wait, Leafstar announced, "Thanks for informing us, Twilightbreeze, but we do not think that Mudblossom would be threats to StarClan. Therefore, we doubted that Mudblossom would do any harm to StarClan."

☰★ Chapter 9

[image]

Twilightbreeze put down a big oak leaf beside Ravenwind, who was treating Tinykit with Whiskerpetal beside her.

Tinykit was lying on the moss with her eyes closed. Her face scowled in pain and she was shaking. Whiskerpetal's beautiful hazel-colored eyes became watery as she stared at Tinykit's lifeless figure.

Whiskerpetal insisted on staying by Tinykit's side, even during the treatment, and Twilightbreeze could not possibly push her away. Whiskerpetal was Tinykit's mother and she was always motherly and gentle.

"Poisoning *again*?" Twilightbreeze sat down and she used a rock to grind the Brown Herb, mixing it with honey. Ravenwind nodded and mewed as Twilightbreeze passed along the solution, "That is very uncommon."

A sound echoed through the tunnel, "I agree."

Twilightbreeze and Ravenwind dripped their heads in respect as Twistedstar limped into the den. His leg was twisted in an unnatural way as he was permanently hurt in a monster attach to Thunderpath. Twistedstar turned to the medicine cats and asked, "How's Tinykit?"

Twilightbreeze and Ravenwind exchanged a glance. Then Ravenwind filled Twiststar with every detail of the mysterious poisoning.

Twiststar acted calm as usual when he said, "Tinykit will live." "How could you say that? You are her father!" Whiskerpetal burst out, her voice shaking and she lied a paw gently on Tinykit. Twiststar sounded sure about what he said, but color drained from

his face as he looked at Tinykit.

Whiskerpetal rested her tail on Tinykit as Ravenwind fed her the herbs using the oak leaf. Tinykit choked down the herbs as she slowly opened her eyes. "Feeling better?" Twilightbreeze mewed as she glanced at Tinykit, trying to figure out what else did she need.

Tinykit nodded as Twilightbreeze released a breath that she did not realize that she was holding. Even Ravenwind sounded relieved when she replied, "Great! Do you have any pain? How do you feel now?"

Tinykit let out a shaky breath as she said, "I am fine...Uh, what herb is that?" She stuck out her tongue and tried to get rid of the taste. Ravenwind handed her some Green Herb to wash away the taste. Twilightbreeze grabbed some Blue herb and put them in front of Tinykit.

"I am sure that you will be back to your trouble-making self soon after taking them," Twilightbreeze claimed. Tinykit was well known for her curiosity and mischievous. Last time, she sneaked to RiverClan which cost a lot of trouble. Twilightbreeze wondered when would she learn, but it definitely would not be soon.

But the atmosphere was too cold for a spark of the joke. Every cat stared at anywhere except one another. Finally, Ravenwind broke the silence as she asked the question that every cat was struggling to ask.

"What happened?"

"I ate some prey and I had a bellyache."

"Prey?"

"Yes."

Twilightbreeze had exactly no idea why a prey would cause such a strong reaction and poisoning. Ravenwind and Whiskerpetal were too. Whiserpetal mewed gently, voice filled with guilt, "I should have inspected the prey more carefully and taken better care of you, Tinykit..."

Ravenwind pointed out, "It is not your fault. You can't possibly prevent everything!"

Twiststar, "I won't blame you. I never did."

Whiskerpetal mewed, "Even if you did not, I would have blamed myself."

Whiskerpetal licked Tinykit gently and helped her with the rest of the herbs. Twilightbreeze and Ravenwind backed away as they did not want to disturb the cuddling time.

"Twilightbreeze!"

[image]

"I should have known you are eavesdropping!" Twilightbreeze stared at the white and grey spotted cat in front of her, "I should have known!"

"Hey! You suddenly left and I wanted to know what happened!" Fernheart snapped, "But I am definitely shocked that you wanted to get rid of Mudblossom using that way!"

Twilightbreeze sighed, "You don't understand..."

Fernheart shouted, "I do!"

Twilightbreeze explained, "I have found some clues that all pointed to Mudblossom..."

Fernheart asked, her voice filled with hurt, "Then why didn't you tell me?"

Twilightbreeze hated that she had made a good point. *Why shouldn't I?*

She replied, "I did not want to cause the cats to panic. Unnecessary panic."

Fernheart murmured, "You can tell me..."

Twilightbreeze sighed, "Sorry, I..."

Fernheart snapped, "No more excuses! I can't believe that you are that kind of cat who betrayed his friend..."

"What about you? Abandoning your best friend and ran off with a cat you barely knew. Chatting with the cat and pretended that I have never existed. What do you mean? Making me jealous? Because I am not!" The words burst out before she could even stop them. She could not control herself anymore. The sharp and cold side of her came before she could even stop it from showing.

Fernheart was shocked and her eyes flashed with guilt. But it turned to anger as soon as the guilt faded. She hissed, "How dare you...Perhaps you were the traitor yourself, and you were just finding excuses!"

Twilightbreeze replied, "I am not!"

"I don't want to know. And you should expect that everyone will hear about this! I don't understand why you wanted to let everyone dump her and I don't care!"

Fernheart stormed off, leaving Twilightbreeze behind. For the first time after Ravenwind's death, Twilightbreeze was speechless.

☰★ Chapter 10

[image]

Fernheart stormed off from the medicine cat den, leaving Twilightbreeze behind. Her body was boiled like flames were burning inside and her fur straightened like needles. She could not believe that Twilightbreeze was the one who always supported her when her parents carried a bad name. She did not care even for one bit.

But now, she was there, betraying Mudblossom, telling lies. How many times did she remind Twilightbreeze to put down the past and restart? She could not even count!

She disliked liars nor traitors. Not dislike. It was hate. Rage. Burning under her pelt. She was once proud of him. But turned out, he was even worse than blank space or dust.

Him. Changed the life of her perfect family. Making beautiful dreams shattered into pieces. He was once an amazing warrior in SkyClan, which Fernpaw, Birdpaw, and Blazepaw looked up to.

"I am our father. I am going to get rid of all our enemies and later became a leader! I am Fernstar. Birdpaw and Blazepaw, please greet me." Fernpaw stood proudly on the high rock (a pile of moss in the apprentice den) and announced the crowd.

"Then...then...then...I will be your deputy. I am Birdfur. Blazepaw, you are completely useless so please stay in the camp and guard the moss." Birdpaw called as he stood under the high rock, addressing to Blazepaw.

Blazepaw mewed with unsatisfied, "What is the use of guarding moss?"

"In case they fly away, who knows?" A voice called from the clearing as Twilightpaw marched into the apprentice den and dripped her head to greet Fernpaw and Birdpaw.

Twilightpaw was always amazing at roleplaying. And the best at telling and catching jokes.

But she changed.

Or did she change?

"Fernstar and Birdfur, I am the medicine cat of SkyClan, Twilightfrost. May I make a suggestion?" Twilightpaw mewed with confidence.

Twilightpaw thought that she would have 'frost' as the suffix. She was always logical and cold. But she got the suffix 'breeze', because of her caring and flexible.

"Please speak." Fernpaw announced as Twilightpaw spoke up, "I think Birdfur's name should change to Birdbutt. Listen, it sounded great!"

Everyone burst out laughing in the apprentice den and a cat peeked inside the den. Him.

"What's so funny? Care to clue me in?" He mewed, sounding amused.

Blazepaw repeated the joke again as Birdpaw's face turned as red as a cherry. He smiled shyly as he threatened, "You! Twilightfrost! You are now banished from SkyClan!"

Twilightpaw pretended to wipe her watery eyes and mewed, "Farewell, everyone. I was banished for calling someone a name that suited him very much, which is Birdbutt..." She squeezed out the name like it was the best name in the entire world.

Laughter filled the den once again as Blazepaw shouted, "I want to be a rogue! Or a loner! That is the coolest thing ever!"

Everyone looked at him, gasping.

It came true...

After he was found stealing the starstone, he was banished. No one even knew where to find it, but Blazesky managed to steal it.

Then he was exiled from the clan, fulfilling the wish of his.

Right after that, he was heard to have died in a monster crash at the Thunderpath. Fernheart really wanted to say he truly deserved this. But she could not.

After all, he was her brother.

The tom mewed, "I need to lead the dawn patrol today. I will see you all soon, cute furballs."

A nickname that could not be forgotten.

After he patted Birdpaw on his head, putting his tail around Blazepaw for a while and whispering something into his ears, he came to Fernpaw and handed her a paw. He mewed, "Fernstar, please come down from the high rock." He bowed as Fernpaw tried to get down but accidentally pushed the moss tower, making the pile of moss collapsed.

"The great high rock collapsed because of the leader's huge impact. The leader can shatter me into pieces if I do anything wrong. Oh, should I be scared?"

Well, sometimes, Twilightpaw's comments made everything much more embarrassing as everyone laughed again.

Life was normal and full of fun. Until...

"Adderclaw, you are now banished. Any defenses?" Oakstar mewed.

Adderclaw. A name that she did not want to hear.

Adderclaw shook his head as he handed for the exit directly, Without saying farewell.

Fernheart's heart was broken into itty-pitty...

[image]

"Hey. Your father did not change who you are, okay?"

"Do not blame yourself. You have exactly nothing to blame yourself for."

"Remember who you need, Blazesky, Birdflight, Yellowblossom. They

need you too. Be strong for them."

Twilightbreeze's comforting words sided with her through being an apprentice and a warrior. It healed her wounded heart. But there were scars deep in her heart.

She grew to trust her friend, Twilightbreeze. Her one and only. They went through this together.

But now, she was not sure whether she could trust her anymore.

She walked to the clearing, seeing that Mudblossom was waiting for her.

"How was it? Did you tell her? How did she react?" Mudblossom glanced at her. Fernheart responded, "She was shocked and asked how I know. I did not tell her that you discovered this so she believed that I found out myself."

"Great! Let's spread this out then. Let everyone know how foxdung is she." Mudblossom sounded eager. Fernheart asked, "How did you know? if you were not overhearing it yourself?"

"I have my own methods. So let's celebrate!" Mudblossom mewed as Fernheart tailed her. She was not sure whether she could trust her or not, but she was at least telling truths instead of withholding information as Twilightbreeze did.

They reached the fresh-kill pile as Fernheart told a mouse from the pile. A mouse.

Twilightkit jumped in front of Fernheart, looking at the fierce mouse. When she leaped forward, the mouse bit her tail as she squealed but she did not give up. She chased the mouse out of the clan when she ignored her bleeding tail as she came and looked at Fernkit, who was hiding behind the moss, terrifying with the little beast.

"Come on! It was just a mouse!" Twilightkit tried to hide her bleeding tail and motioned Fernkit to come out but she failed. The red was impossible to ignore and the moss was painted with red...

She sat down and said nothing as she tore the mouse and swallowed

it. Mudblossom was enjoying her bird when she asked, "Can you tell me more about Twilightbreeze?"

"Why do you want to know?"

"Aren't you angry with her? I can teach you some methods to defense her."

Fernheart was not angry. She was upset. And heartbroken.

The only reply that she could come up with was 'Okay'

☰★ Chapter 11

[image]

Twilightbreeze set off to Rainbow Hollow again, not only to collect herb but to give herself some peace.

She was tired of all the gossips and whispers, surrounding her like bees. After the infamous Who Was The Traitor discussion, trouble found her and tortured her.

"You are only jealous, don't you? Because I am now friends with Mudblossom? But this doesn't mean that you can tell bad things about her! Can you put down all your judgments and treat her like a new friend?" Fernheart snapped.

"See? I treat you as a friend. And now you want revenge? I put down all my judgments and now you tried to get rid of me? As Fernheart said, you truly are jealous!" Mudblossom agreed. But Twilightbreeze could never forget the hidden fear in her eyes.

"Twilightbreeze, I cannot believe you tell tales about Mudblossom! Even though she treated you awfully before, she improved her attitude. What about you?" Whitestripe scolded.

"I can't believe this! Twilightbreeze is always nice and kind!"

"Well, it takes time to see the true color of someone!"

"Probably she fakes her ability to make herself as special and popular as Featherfrost!" "Or perhaps her ability is malfunctioning..."

She worked every time she could, trying to wash away the memories. She did not care what the others think about her, but she started to think if they are right.

What if my ability really is malfunctioning? Or these visions are my imaginaries?

"I am sorry to say this," Deafears mewed, "But I side with the others. I don't think my sister will do this. Don't put what the others said in mind, ok?"

Even with the comfort, it wasn't easy to chase something out of her mind.

She would give everything in exchange for the ability to vanish anytime.

Everything.

What should she do?

She doesn't know.

What should she say?

She doesn't know.

What should she think?

She doesn't know.

The whole StarClan turns against her. No one gives a second thought to the possibilities. Even she was doubting herself.

What if she cannot save StarClan?

What if she fails?

What if she cannot do this on her own?

What if all of these are imaginaries of hers?

She murmured to herself, "Sometimes, things get worse before they go better."

Well, she is not confident about this anymore...

[image]

Twilightbreeze stared into Starpool, with Ravenwind sitting beside

her. *No one was willing to sit near to a so-call traitor*, Twilightbreeze thought, as bitterness flooded her mind.

The Gathering in the lake territories started with a yowl by Duskstar, SkyClan's leader. He stood on the branch with Ripplestar, RiverClan's leader, Crowstar, WindClan's leader, Snowstar, ThunderClan's leader and Darkstar, ShadowClan's leader.

Twilightbreeze scanned through the crowd, relieved to see her mother Songberry sitting together in the crowd, along with Sleekpaw. Sleekpaw seemed to recover from the rockfall well that she could not see a scar on him. Well, she was not sure about the mental ones...

Wait! Where's Featherfrost? Twilightbreeze immediately noticed her absence after searching for her. *Perhaps Featherfrost did not attend this gathering?*

Twilightbreeze took a deep breath, stopping thousand of nightmares forming in her mind. She needed to wait and see before imagining.

"Sadly, I am here to announce a piece of bad news," Duskstar mewed as everyone, whether in StarClan or in the lake territories, gasped, "one of our warrior Featherfrost had been missing yesterday."

Twilightbreeze made sure that her ears did not deceive anything. Then she tried to wake herself up from this terrible nightmare. *It is just a nightmare, right?*

But this time, she was wrong.

As Whitestripe started cursing under his breath and Waterripple was determined to find her whatever it took, Twilightbreeze knew that this was true.

Featherfrost was missing? How could this be possible?

Featherfrost was popular. Everyone liked her. She was responsible so it was impossible that she disappeared without telling anyone.

Unless kidnapping?

Duskstar's mew brought Twilightbreeze back to reality, "She was missing yesterday morning. We knew...we thought," He corrected himself as he continued after swallowing, "she would come back so we did not call for a searching team...Then she was missing..."

Now, Waterripple was out of control. He shouted, "How could you? Not searching for her but went to the gathering and announcing the news! Why didn't you spend more time searching for her?"

Twilightbreeze knew that Waterripple was out of control, but he did make a great point.

Everyone was angry in StarClan. Whitestripe showed a disgusted look as he stared at Duskstar. Goosestar was swearing. Twiststar was usually calm but this time his face was red with rage. Twilightbreeze was pretty sure that her eyes were lit with flames.

"Pang!" The pool stirred as flashes of light raced to the Gathering Island. Waterdrops fell from the sky and landed on the ground, causing the cats fleeing from the Island and backed to their own clan. StarClan was angry.

One problem at a time.

[image]

Twilightbreeze opened her eyes, her view filled with orange color.

There is only one possibility.

She sniffed and before she could panic, she found out that she could not even smell the burnt smell of the fire. She glanced around, seeing the Great Oak was on fire. Screams of the cats echoed. Cats fleed and some struggled to pull out the fire.

Another vision? Or is this just a dream? Twilightbreeze was not sure about what happened until everything went back to reality. She was lying on the moss in the medicine cat den after a busy day of collecting herbs.

She stood up gently, carefully not to wake Ravenwind, and looked out to the night sky.

She did not know what was right or wrong anymore.

She did not even know who was she.

Her life was miserable.

Without direction.

And with her beloved sister missing,

Her life was without directions.

Stars, please guide me through this...

A shooting star flew across the sky...

☰★ Chapter 12

[image]

Twilightbreeze paddled toward the fresh-kill pile, cats whispering about her behind.

"Look! The liar came!"

"She did not even deserve to have a share in the fresh-kill pile!"

She banned down, taking the smallest vole from the pile. She did not really care about what the others said, but she still took the smallest as she was not hungry. She was tired of the glances and whispers so she decided to have her meal in the den. She was ready to head to the medicine cat den when she saw Birdflight heading to the pile. She did not know how Birdflight felt about her now, but their friendship might worsen as Fernheart was his sister.

Birdflight eyed her nervously as he took a mouse from the pile. Twilightbreeze glanced at Birdflight as she saw there was some yellow transparent liquid dripping from the mouse. Birdflight did not seem to notice as he paddled to his usual spot, under the pine tree.

It can't be.

It can't be.

Twilightbreeze sniffed. The scent was so familiar. She always had the gift of the strong smell sense and it was used again.

"Wait! Birdflight!" Twilightbreeze mewed as Birdflight shoved the mouse into his mouth. Birdflight looked up as Twilightbreeze came near and grabbed the mouse. Birdflight watched puzzledly as she sniffed at the mouse. Fernheart and Mudblossom watched with disbelief when Twilightbreeze inspected the mouse, staring at the dripping yellow liquid.

"Take a look at the amazing show of the Mysterious Yellow Liquid by Twilightbreeze!" Fernheart snored as she announced. Mudblossom nodded. The cats circled around Twilightbreeze, some of them snickered but most of them watched quietly.

Although sometimes Fernheart's speech was hurtful, she could not possibly blame her. She blamed herself for causing all of the trouble. She could have pointed out the wrong cat. After all, there were a lot of dark brown furred cats out there.

But Mudblossom was not completely innocent either. Fear was shown in her eyes when she was being pointed out... Twilightbreeze shoved all the unanswered questions into the darkest corner of her mind. It was not the time for thinking, it was the time for focusing.

It can't be.

It can't be.

"What...what...happened?" Birdflight asked nervously when Twilightbreeze froze.

"The mouse is covered with snake venom."

[image]

"How can it be?" Leafstar paced around the crowded medicine cat den, glancing at Ravenwind and Twilightbreeze.

Once Twilightbreeze delivered the snake venom to the medicine cat den, Ravenwind took a look at it and confirmed Twilightbreeze's anxiety. Along with the medicine cats, the leaders and deputies come to inspect the prey, but they kept a far distance from it.

Tinykit was lying on the moss with Yellowblossom beside her "This...this...is...how...my...vole...looks...like..." she mewed quietly, "With...some...yellow...liquid..."

Yellowblossom asked, "But why? I gave you a rabbit and I inspected it carefully! There is no sign of venom!" "Yellowblossom, you said that you gave Tinykit a rabbit that day instead of Whiskerpetal giving her. And Tinykit said she ate a rabbit. Maybe you got the

vole from somewhere else?" Twilightbreeze suggested.

The crowd nodded as they waited silently for Tinykit's answer. After a long silence, Tinykit mewed in an even lower voice, "I...I...took it from...under...the...pine...pine...tree...from the clearing..."

Yellowblossom looked up with terror, and after a second, Twilightbreeze knew why.

Birdflight's usual spot.

☰★ Chapter 13

[image]

Quiet flooded the room, making the atmosphere become more and more serious. The cats stared at one another, finding their tongues tied.

Finally, Yellowblossom broke the silence, "If you assume that my kit poisoned that vole..." "Birdflight's involvement was yet to demand," Leafstar interrupted her, which was rarely happened. Leafstar was always the calmest but now, her tail twisted uncomfortably and her eyes stayed on the floor as she murmured, mostly to herself, "This never happened...We usually thought that the safest place was StarClan. But now, I am not sure about that any more..."

Quiet came again as every cat stared at the venom dripping out of the vole, not knowing what to say.

Goosestar burst out, "Whether this happened on purpose, or by accident, the cat must be exiled!" Several cats gasped. Exile was again rarely happened in StarClan, as all cats lived peacefully. But apparently, things had changed...

Accident? Or on purpose?

What purpose?

Mysterious group? Mysterious poisoning?

Can things be any more complicated?

The topic somehow switched to Why there was snake venom in the first place.

Oakstar suggested, "Maybe some snakes found a way to StarClan?" Goosestar snored, "Hedgehogs will fly if snakes sneak into StarClan, kittypet." Oakstar scowled at the mention of her special adaptation but she did not argue.

"I think there are traitors in the clan," Deafears claimed. He always had a belief in Twilightbreeze's visions and stood by her side. He continued, "How can the snakes found a way to StarClan? No one can deny that," He thought for a while as he added, "Twilightbreeze's vision had clues or even answers to a lot of mysteries. Why do you deny the possibilities? It was at least worth a shot."

Twilightbreeze knew that Deafears was helping her and she was grateful, but she could not help but feel nervous. *What if my ability is just a joke?* She always tried to pull herself away from this topic, but there it went, being put under the attention of the cats, well decorated like a gift.

She wished she could vanish from all these messes, but she could only face them. Especially when Applespark snapped, "You really believed in that liar? After she claimed the traitor was your sister?"

Applespark had no warm feelings toward Deafears, even though he was Deafears' father. He treated Deafears as a shame to the family because of his disability. He even named his suffix Deaf, in order to let Deafears bear this name forever and remembered he ruined a *noble* family.

Twilightbreeze could not help but feel pitiful to Deafears.

Deafears was speechless as Applespark snapped again, "Twilightbreeze, can you please share your theory on this incident? I supposed that it will be very *interesting*."

All eyes landed on Twilightbreeze but she did not feel afraid. She held Applespark's murderous glance as she mewed confidently, "Basically, we knew about the poisoning but actually, we knew nothing more." Some of the cats nodded, but all of them remained silent. Applespark flicked his tail and looked away. Twilightbreeze knew she won, but only for this round.

After 11 minutes and 23 seconds of silence, yes, Twilightbreeze counted, Leafstar announced the meeting dismissed and they left the medicine cat den.

Moonlight peeked inside the medicine cat den as Twilightbreeze and Ravenwind finished their night packing. Twilightbreeze hang the herbs up as Ravenwind lied out the moss tidily on the ground. They lied on the moss earlier than usual and called the day off.

Hearing the gentle snore beside her, Twilightbreeze was sleepless. Her mind was like an overstuffed bag, when would it explode?

She was struggling to find the answer.

Tired of waiting.

She wanted answers.

ANSWERS.

But not more and more questions.

Without answers.

An idea popped into her mind.

A vision.

A vision can solve the questions.

Moonlight shone over Twilightbreeze's white pelt as she closed her eyes...

[image]

Twilightbreeze's view was covered with black and gray as she opened her eyes. Her view was unclear, clouding over her head.

She was lost.

Where she was, she did not know.

She was miserable.

She tried to clear her head but failed.

Whether this was a vision or a dream, she did not know.

Until she smelt the too-familiar smell.

She gasped, struggling to take a breath of fresh air.

Until she recognized the smell of the burnt wood, *she knew that she was too late...*

☰★ Chapter 14

[image]

Fire.

The fire was licking everything it saw, leaving ashes behind. The medicine cat den was safe, but when Twilightbreeze peeked from the hole near her bedding, she was choked by the smoke. The smoke seemed to grab her lungs, squeezing as hard as she could.

The vision which she ignored came back.

Twilightbreeze glanced around, seeing the Great Oak was on fire. Screams of the cats echoed. Cats fleed and some struggled to pull out the fire.

It is true.

The fire is happening.

I should have figured out how to prevent it.

But at least, her ability came back.

Now is not the time for panic, but for action.

She rushed to Ravenwind's side, shaking her awake, "Ravenwind, fire! Quick!" When Ravenwind did not respond, she dragged Ravenwind out of the tunnel. The tunnel was dark usually but the beam of the wildfire painted the dark tunnel orange. She ran through the tunnel while dragging Ravenwind and went to the clearing.

She would have figured out what happened to Ravenwind later.

The entrance of the medicine cat den was at least away from the burning area so they were safe. Well, *temporary*. The fire will spread for sure. At a rapid speed.

Twilightbreeze looked around the clearing as she put Ravenwind down gently. She had to find someone fast enough. She scanned through the crowd as she spotted Birdflight. As the fastest runner in SkyClan in StarClan, he could spread the news faster than wildfire.

Twilightbreeze dashed to the pine tree. She thrust Birdflight as he woke up with a screech. He was shivering, not in cold, nor in pain. He seemed scared as he glanced around. Then he looked into Twilightbreeze's bright blue eyes.

"What's up?" Twilightbreeze mewed, "A nightmare?"

Birdflight shook his head. "It is...it is...it is...different...with...nightmare..."

"What is it?" Twilightbreeze had no time to waste, but Birdflight seemed to be testing her patience.

"Please just tell me! We have no time to waste." Twilightbreeze half hissed and half begged when Birdflight stared into nothing. Birdflight looked away as he murmured, "In the brightest part of the dark, the shooting star will guide the way."

"Huh?" Twilightbreeze did not catch the words of Birdflight's words. Not words. But more like taking breaths.

Birdflight repeated again as he looked back to Twilightbreeze, his mouth formed three more words but no sound came out of his mouth. Then he looked away again, his face flushing.

"Come on! Is that a prophecy?" Twilightbreeze asked and Birdflight nodded.

Her mouth turned sour. Did she do anything wrong? Why wouldn't she be the one who receives it? Why would it be Birdflight?

She felt something other than confused, maybe...jealousy?

It is not time for jealousy. It is time for...

"What are you two doing there? If you two secretly mat..." Ravenwind's voice was cut off when she spotted the fire rushing

toward the clearing. She shouted, "What are you waiting for? Come and help!"

Birdflight immediately set off to wake all the cats as Twilightbreeze returned from the river with some water in a big oak leaf, along with Ravenwind, Splashleap, and Waterripple, who later joined in the recuse team. But the fire was too big for that small amount of water. The fire hated being underestimated as he became angrier, swallowing everything it saw.

Everyone was already at the rainbow hollow as the fire did not spread to that place as they chuttered about the fire, a mix of worry, anxiety, frustrated and anger in the crowd. Goosestar, as usual, expressing his anger using angry wordings. Whiskerpetal was busy licking Tinykit when Birdflight came rushing toward Twilightbreeze.

"Have you seen Fernheart? Can you sense her?" Yet another familiar name but already in the list of Names-that-Twilightbreeze-do-not-want-to-hear.

Although she was mean to Twilightbreeze, yet she had a reason. And even though she was mean, Twilightbreeze would never wish her dead. If she did, Twilightbreeze would live with the guilt of killing her former best friend for the rest of her life.

Twilightbreeze stood straight as her nose sniffing in the air, looking for the familiar scene. Probably she was chatting in the crowd. Even if she was gossiping about Twilightbreeze, Twilightbreeze would never mind a bit. Even the slightest bit. Because at least she was safe.

But, the bad news came.

As Twilightbreeze shook her head as hard as she could, Birdflight stomped on the ground and looked around. He could not spot Fernheart either...

The world seemed to shatter.

Where was Fernheart?

No one knows.

A shooting star shot across the sky as Birdflight looked up, his gaze followed the shooting star until it disappeared at the direction of Sunning Forest, Birdflight offered, "I need to go and find her."

Twilightbreeze opened her mouth but was immediately cut off by Birdflight, "Before you tell me it is dangerous, she was my sister. My littermate. I needed to save her."

Twilightbreeze opened her mouth again but she could not say a word. Birdflight was usually the first to panic and he was always shy. But now there he was, eyes shining with nervous, but more was determined.

She could never stop him. And if she was him, she would have done the same thing, so it was pointless to argue.

"Fine! But under one condition, if I can not come along, I will announce this to the entire crowd-" Before she could finish her sentence, Birdflight was already out of her sight.

Twilightbreeze sniffed the air, trying to find the direction of where Birdflight headed to. She was eager to help as she chased across the clearing and followed the trail, heading inside the Rainbow Hollow. She tore along the Hollow as she smelt the smoke.

Fire.

Was.

Nearby.

But the smoke and fire did not slow her pace. She doubled her speed.

She could do this.

But as something black came falling down, she was not sure about this anymore.

☰★ Chapter 15

[image]

"Are you sure this is a good idea?"

Fernheart mewed as she tiptoed through Rainbow Hollow with Mudblossom at her right, "We are supposed to join in the rescue, but not following you to whatever place you are bringing me to see."

"Please! I have not even shown this to anyone, but you are my best friend. So I trust you with this secret." Mudblossom begged.

Best friend. Trust. Secret.

These were what Fernheart wanted. And Mudblossom's voice echoed in her head.

She nodded as she followed Mudblossom to a forest.

The forest hummed its own melody with birds tweeting and animals playing. The sun broke through the cracks of the leaves, lighting up the dark path in front of them.

Sunningforest.

Twilightbreeze warned her not to go in when she just entered the mysterious world of StarClan.

"Ravenwind told me not to go, it contained some dark secrets that you will not wish to know," Twilightbreeze told Fernheart and looked away.

But Fernheart was confused that why Twilightbreeze was not curious about what was inside. Normally, she would sneak into it at night with her. Unless she went inside the forest without Fernheart?

Fernheart did not know what to feel when she asked as they walked down the narrow pathway, "What about Twilightbreeze? Did she

know?" She found out the forest is darker than ever. *Camouflage.*

The question was not replied. Instead, Mudblossom mewed, "Did you ever wonder why did I bring you here?"

"Apart from you-are-my-best-friend-and-you-want-to-show-me?" Fernheart asked as they reached a den that was well hidden in the forest. It looked old, abandoned and mysterious. There were plants growing on the roof of the den and birds seemed to treat it as their personal shelter. Mudblossom uncovered a secret panel behind a big oak leaf and licked. The secret panel was shaped as a rectangle, with a transparent square on top of a special shape. It shaped like a kite shape but looked like being squeezed and had five sides.

"Of course, I personally want to share it with you. But a cat wants to see you." Mudblossom replied but Fernheart did not pay attention to her reply.

"Is the square a receiver? Two-legs technology?" Instead, Fernheart asked.

"No, not *two-legs technology*," Mudblossom replied, "StarClan's *legacy*,"

Suddenly, they heard a sound from a bush nearby.

"Let me take a look," Mudblossom stomped the ground in a special pattern and she cautiously walked to the bush nearby where the sound was made. When she waited till the time was right, she leaped onto the figure, nailing the figure straight at it's back.

"Come on, Mudblossom! I know it is you!" The figure mewed using her silvery voice as Mudblossom landed on its back.

Yet, the sound was too familiar.

Because of the large impact, it sent the two cats toppled over and lied on the ground, sending birds and dust flying.

Twilightbreeze coughed because of the flying dust as she mewed, "What are you two doing here?"

Mudblossom and Fernheart exchanged a glance as Mudblossom replied, "And what are you doing here?"

Twilightbreeze pushed Mudblossom off her as she rolled her bright blue eyes and claimed, "Birdflight came to find you, Fernheart. He was deadly worried about you. I went after him as I was scared that he would do something mousebrain but he was too fast. I could not catch up. And now I was lost, and I saw you here with Fernheart... A bunch of *good* news!"

She took a deep breath and continued, "I need to tell him that I have found you. Also, this is not sarcasm but I am very glad to see that you are safe, Fernheart."

Fernheart did not know what to feel. This felt so right. Twilightbreeze cared. She did not abandon Fernheart. This felt so real.

But Fernheart was now much more concerned about how Birdflight was doing.

"We have to find him. What if he did something mouse brain?" Fernheart paddled around as Twilightbreeze held straight as she struggled to find the scent of Birdflight.

Everyone held their breath when Twilightbreeze searched for the scent. Twilightbreeze let out a shaky breath as every cat was busy coughing their lungs out when the smoke was tickling their throat, "Sorry. The smoke is spreading and it covers the scent."

Her fault. Her fault. Her own fault. Her own fault.

The voices stirred in her head.

"Fernpaw, you are the proudest kit I have ever had. You will become me one day. Just remember to fight for it."

No, she did not want to be like Adderclaw, ever.

But was her life being written?

Or she was supposed to feel like a hopeless vole, could not prevent

the possibility of being eaten by a cat?

"Leave Twilightpaw alone! Do you want to downgrade her reputation? And Whitestripe's? And Featherpaw's?"

She cannot believe these words come from Songberry. The kind-hearted Songberry. The motherly cat who Fernheart treated as her second mother.

Her fault. Her fault. Her own fault. Her own fault.

Another voice replaced her haunted memories.

"Your father does not decide who you are. You are yourself. Do what Fernheart wants to do. But not Adderclaw."

Twilightpaw's words seemed to be a bird, silently tweeting its sad song. The words felt like a gentle breeze, brushing Fernheart's shattered heart.

But problems could not be ignored.

"Fernheart, remember this, even if I am not by your side in your life afterward, I will always by your side, no matter in any forms."

Fernheart did not take Blazesky seriously on that day that changed her entire family's lives when he said this.

Banishment. Monster crash. Mysterious death.

What's more?

She was sure that Twilightbreeze could have handled this better than she could.

She lost her way.

And if she lost her brother again, she would never forgive herself. Ever.

"What are you thinking of now, Fernheart? Are you ready to split and find Birdflight?" The silvery voice pulled Fernheart away from

the darkness.

She had already wasted enough time.

She could not waste even more.

She could not even think of the possibility that Birdflight would...

"Let's go!"

☰★ Chapter 16

[image]

Where was Fernheart?

Was Fernheart's missing his fault?

Birdflight was wondering inside the forest, trying to sense the scent of Fernheart.

He should have waited for Twilightbreeze, her amazing sense would be useful.

But now, it was too late...

Too late...

He smelt the smoke, quickly spread among the territories.

He had to be quick.

He ran swiftly around the territories, not bothering to enjoy the wind brushing his body. He usually ran every day around the territories, volunteer to inspect the safety of the borders. He enjoyed the breeze who greeted him every morning, the melody of the sweet tweeting birds and his heartbeat. His paws made a soft sound as he ran through the grass. This was an amazing nature.

But now was not the time to enjoy.

It was time for action.

He stopped in front of the forest which was opposite from the Sunningforest, glancing at the tall trees. He could smell - smoke.

Smoke huffed and puffed through the trees, threatening Birdflight from coming near. The fire was spread from this forest.

And this was the last place that he had not checked.

He could feel the danger. Whispers telling him to back away from this dangerous place.

But he could not back away. Not even one step. He could only step forward.

He could not risk having his sister trapping in there. Or he would be blaming himself for the rest of his life.

"Your sister Fernheart suffered a lot. You should be standing beside her. Protecting her. But not backing away like a timid mouse." Yellowblossom told him after Blazesky's accident.

He could not back away again.

"It is impossible! You all are mousebrains! How can Birdflight possibly poison a cat?" Fernheart snapped as every cat went nearer to Birdflight and scolded him for poisoning the cats.

And his sister spoke the words for him which he wanted to say for ages.

But he did not dare to claim it.

If he did, he would be in big trouble.

Big, big trouble.

He felt dangers coming near. Darkness was ready to swallow him.

He felt his life was counting down. One heartbeat by one heartbeat.

Living under the threat of him.

He wanted Fernheart.

And Birdflight had to stop him.

What if he kept Fernheart hostage?

And made the fire as a camouflage?

Who knew?

Birdflight really wanted answers.

But not more and more questions.

He really appreciated Twilightbreeze for spotting the clues, but he could not confirm it.

He felt guilty.

He had to check. He took a cautious step into the forest.

He followed the narrow strip among the giant root and leaves. His pelt brushed the branches as he passed, feeling their gentle spirits soothing his. For this was their world as they stretched toward the light they never saw yet sensed, and he must do the same... open up his other senses... to sound, to the aroma and listened very carefully to every instinct.

But where was the light?

He was not sure.

The fire shot up as first glowing red before cooling to red. He could see the orange tongue licking everything it saw, leaving ashes behind. Although it was still at the far end of the forest, the orange light was impossible to ignore.

He carefully ran through the forest, looking for pawprints of Fernheart.

Nothing was found.

He began to feel anxious running down his pelt, straight into his heart. He could not feel anything.

He thought of the possibility that Twilightbreeze had already found her, she was now safe and sound.

But what if she did not?

He did not want to think further.

He cautiously paced past the burnt forest, got fed up by the smell of burning wood. Right then, he heard some sound from the bushes nearby.

He tried to turn and take a little look. But his legs did not listen. They moved faster and faster.

He knew.

The forest became darker. The bare branches spiked into the sky, covering the only moonlight. The silver on the leaves disappeared, instead, darkness covered the whole place. No sign of life could be found anywhere. It was so dark that Birdflight could barely see where he was going. The orange tongue disappeared into nowhere, but Birdflight was clear that it was somewhere out there, waiting for him.

Him.

Birdflight ran faster and faster as the pawsteps became clearer and clearer. His breath became heavier and heavier as he used up his energy. He wanted to lie down and ignored all the things. He always wanted a normal life.

If Birdflight ran straight out of the forest, he would never have a chance to catch him.

But Fernheart...?

He could not take another risk, especially in Fernheart's life.

Birdflight silently and swiftly turned and slipped into the bushes.

He hid and waited. Waited. Waited.

The forest was too silent that he could hear his heartbeat clearly and loudly that sounded like a round object that the two-legs hit, loud enough to scare all the birds away.

Silence.

He relaxed and released his breath. But to make sure, he threw a stone at the tree root nearby.

Bang!

And the silence responded to him with nothing else.

He slowly stepped out of the bush he was hiding behind, carefully not to make any sound.

Until he felt a breath near his neck.

Too late.

He jumped on Birdflight and Birdflight lied on the ground. Birdflight was quickly pinned and he could not move. Birdflight thought of shouting for help but when he opened his mouth, no sound came out.

His mouth found its way to Birdflight's neck, giving him a hiss, "This is the consequence."

Birdflight tried to struggle and ran as he felt blood running out of the small wound near his neck. He gave a cold smirk as he vanished, leaving Birdflight behind. Birdflight did not have much time left.

He gave a silent hope that Fernheart was safe and everything was alright. Then when he started to close his eyes...

"What happened?"

Twilightbreeze.

He could not open his eyes as something was dragging his away, but he managed to squeeze out three words which he wanted to tell her for a long time.

He could not hold back anymore.

There was not enough time.

He once was scared.

But now he did not.

His voice was hoarse and barely a whisper as he squeezed the three words out.

"Find the Starstone."

☰★ Chapter 17

[image]

Starstone.

Starstone

Starstone.

Find the starstone.

Find the starstone.

Find the starstone.

Why?

She could not believe a life was taken.

Just like that.

Because they were a little too late.

Mudblossom kept wailing on the way of finding Birdflight and claimed that she was too afraid of the dark as Fernheart dragged her down the path of the forest. Yes, she was scared. Twilightbreeze could see that from her eyes. But not afraid of the dark.

What was it?

Twilightbreeze discovered the faint scent of Birdflight as she smelt along the forest where the fire burnt, her white pelt was covered with dust, mud, and ash. Above her was Fernheart, who was staring at her with watery eyes, waiting for her answer.

But at that moment when Twilightbreeze looked up, Fernheart turned away, not wanting to know the bad news. Twilightbreeze could not possibly blame her as they had spent a lot of time convincing

Mudblossom to co-operate.

And at that time, Mudblossom was nowhere to be found.

"Uh uh," Twilightbreeze made a note as Fernheart turned and glanced at her with anxiety, "I have a piece of good news and a piece of bad news. Your call."

Fernheart stomped the ground as the mud and dust flying. She lost her patience already, "Come on! You can do better than that, Twilight! Stop joking!"

Twilightbreeze replied calmly, "Then automatic choice. The good news is I think I know where is Bird-"

Fernheart jumped even before Twilightbreeze finished her sentences, sending a storm of dust and ashes. Twilightbreeze coughed as she replied, "Wait, listen! I meant I smelt a bird! Tweet tweet!"

"Impossible!" Fernheart smacked Twilightbreeze as she laughed the first time that night. Twilightbreeze was glad that she looked a bit more like herself again. She stood and dragged Fernheart to the forest. The joke worked. Suddenly, happiness drained from her face as she asked, "What about the bad news?"

The air was silent. The whole world paused.

Fernheart sat down and was looking at her paws as Twilightbreeze looked at everywhere except at Fernheart. "Well, Birdflight...Birdflight...scent was mixed with another...another...scent...that I have never smelt before..."

Fernheart stood up and ran to Twilightbreeze, "Twilight, tell me! Where are they? I am ready to fight! Whatever it takes! I will never let them hurt my brother! Or maybe the unknown cat is one of Birdflight's friend?"

Twilightbreeze swallowed as she nodded and mewed, "Under one condition, okay?"

Fernheart rolled her eyes as she waited for Twilightbreeze's reply. Twilightbreeze groaned, "I will fight with you."

Fernheart beamed and she nodded. She gently pushed Twilightbreeze as she snapped, "What are you staring at? Lead the way!"

They are still too late.

Starstone.

Starstone

Starstone.

Find the starstone.

Find the starstone.

Find the starstone.

Too late.

They could just watch.

Birdflight vanished into nothing.

Things were not as simple as she thought.

First thing first, she needed to know why the starstone was connected.

And she was sure that Mudblossom played a role in the trauma.

[image]

"Twilightbreeze, did you find anything that may lead to Birdflight's sudden death?"

The cats were busy rebuilding StarClan when Twilightbreeze and Ravenwind inspected the cats one by one, checking for injuries.

"What?" Twilightbreeze was checking Whitestripe when she spotted a gash on his paw. She reached for the oak leaf and fished Black herb from the leaf. She smashed some on his paw as he winced. Twilightbreeze gave Whitestripe a pat on his shoulder and glanced at Ravenwind.

"I mean," Ravenwind was a bit impatient, "did you find anything that may lead to Birdflight's sudden death?"

Twilightbreeze was confused why Ravenwind asked about this, "Isn't it obvious? He died because of smoke!"

Ravenwind rolled her eyes as she snored, "If everything is that easy, should we be worrying a lot of things? Did you smell the smoke when you were - never mind, your sense was stronger. But Fernheart did not faint, right? And according to you, the fire was at the other part of the forest, so I do not think smoke is the reason."

Twilightbreeze hated that she had made a good point. She really did not want to think about the possibility of...

Murdering.

Or maybe there were other reasons?

Maybe he fell?

The body would vanish after the cat died, so it was very hard to know the reason.

On the other side, Fernheart was in thunderstorm mode. Which was not a good time to ask her about her brother.

But, there was another method.

The only way to know the truth was to seek it.

"Ravenwind, I have a little request. Can I pay the forest a visit?"

[image]

Almost there.

Almost there.

Twilightbreeze's paws ached because of the sharp stones and her pelt was covered with mud and dust. She was smelt of a strong smell of ashes as she crawled over branches and branches fallen on

the only path going into the forest. The memories flashed back.

Of that terrible night.

It was only one sunrise ago.

She jumped over the branches, and she came here to find the truth.

She sniffed as she reached the spot where they found Birdflight, her fur straightened up as she remembered the lifeless Birdflight lying there, telling him his last three words.

Find the Starstone.

It must be important.

An important clue to a lot of things.

She should have told any cat about the vision.

Even if she had a doubt in it.

And this mistake took Birdflight's life as a consequence for her to remember this forever.

She murmured, "I should have told. This is my fault-"

The sentence was cut short as Twilightbreeze discovered something. She kneeled down and stared at the tuft of ginger fur with blood.

That was the proof, the evidence.

Ravenwind was right.

The fire burnt like losing its temper yesterday as if the leaping flames had terrible anger. It wanted everything.

And now, Birdflight's death, her friend's death, was not because of smoke or fire.

She wanted to doubt herself.

It was impossible.

But yet, all clues pointed to that.

And there was only one possible answer.

Murder.

☰★ Chapter 18

[image]

Sometimes, Fernheart was very sure that her ears deceived what Twilightbreeze said.

"Are you mousebrain? What happened to you?"

"Well, excluding a heart attack, an overwhelming sunhigh and a friend who is recently on storm mode, right?" Twilightbreeze raised her eyebrows, staring at Fernheart.

Fernheart leaned on the root of the pine tree, sighing. But as her paws felt the root with winkles, memories flashed back.

"You can always share this tree with me," Birdflight mewed, "I am lonely."

The old, yellow and brown leaves hustled in the wind, as the sounds of dead, weak trees, creak at every push the wind gave. The crumbling of the brown stiff leaves created a home for her to hide during this time of empty sorrow. She did not know what to feel. She had already lost so much.

Blazesky. Birdflight.

The anger from her eyes showed the scared Fernheart within, the cat who was taught to fight and starved of the love she craved. She was sure that Twilightbreeze could see the pain beneath it and her soul drowning in this persona she would carved to fit a world of indifference.

She had already lost so much.

She could not afford to lose anymore.

Perhaps...

"I know you are angry, and I understand your feelings. I want to express my sympathy but it is probably not really the time for that..." Looking at Fernheart's stare, Twilightbreeze gasped and mewed, "No, you misunderstood. I mean...maybe it is time for action?"

"Wait, are you still with me?" Twilightbreeze waved her tail in front of Fernheart's eyes as Fernheart's bloody red world was turned into snow and wonder.

She winked and she stared into the pair of bright blue eyes, filling with sorrow and worry. Fernheart recalled what had happened just a while ago when Twilightbreeze dragged her to the pine tree, her fur covered with mud and dirt and badly out of breath.

She must have an adventure.

"Go ahead! Tell me!" Fernheart mewed, lacking patience. Twilightbreeze rolled her eyes as she pushed a squirrel to Fernheart.

Fernheart did not feel like eating, especially Birdflight's death was partly her fault and she did not deserve to enjoy her life because she had lost her brother.

Twilightbreeze pushed the squirrel back to Fernheart, sighing, "Please, I do not feel like nagging someone to eat a squirrel like feeding little kits herbs. Birdflight would not want that!"

Birdflight.

She owed him too much.

Fernheart took a bite, the juicy taste filled her dry throat immediately. All of her taste buds started to work again as she took one big bite after one big bite. She chewed with satisfaction.

"So, here it goes." Twilightbreeze spilled out, "I paid a visit to the forest and found out about the reason for Birdflight's death..."

"What..."

"Listen, so I found out that..."

"Because of the smoke?"

"Come on, just let me finish..."

"Because of a fall?"

Gee, that hurt a lot.

"So..."

"What is it?"

Twilightbreeze lost it. She shoved the whole squirrel into Fernheart's mouth. Her mouth was stuffed as she choked and coughed.

Remember this, never got on Twilightbreeze's bad side, or you would never end up great.

Twilightbreeze chuckled as she sat down, teased, "Satisfied?"

Fernheart wanted to say something but her words crashed together as she swallowed the squirrel, her mouth was opened in an uncomfortable size. Of course, if she could have opened her mouth any wider she would have eaten the apple in one bite.

"Great! Now you finally learn how to shut up!" Fernheart had to stop her urge from ripping Twilightbreeze's sickening sweet smile from her face.

"I am afraid that Birdflight is being murdered..." Twilightbreeze's voice was barely a whisper, more like taking a breath.

But Fernheart heard every word clearly. She choked and coughed as Twilightbreeze rushed to pat her back. Fernheart swallowed that anger when it was a fire-seed and forgot to drink something cool, and so it grew in her belly until it came out as hot as an unstoppable fire flame... on one of the cats she loved most.

Fernheart gritted teeth from the effort to remain silent, her hunched form exuded an animosity that was like acid - burning, slicing, potent. And then she waited, for Twilightbreeze to speak.

"I think the clue is starstone. The key. If we have the starstone, we can know the reason why." Twilightbreeze cast a glance to Fernheart, then she immediately understood.

Fernheart glanced at the clearing, glad to see that it was emptied. Patrols had already set off to catch prey, patrol border. The watchers sat around Starpool, staring at SkyClan, chatting.

Making sure that no one was eavesdropping, she hissed, "You mean stealing the Starstone?"

Twilightbreeze hesitated for a heartbeat, then she nodded. Her eyes showed that she expected Fernheart to deny.

"Well, if that is the only way, I will do it."

Twilightbreeze certainly did not notice that she had opened her mouth widely with shock.

"Really? You will help?"

"Why? I truly mean it."

Fernheart could not stand being weak again. She wanted to fight back. For her brothers.

"What's your plan then? When are we going?"

Twilightbreeze stood up as she paced around the tree. She scowled as she claimed, "I *will* be going. You need to cover things up for me."

Then, she spilled out all of her plans. She decided to walk into Featherfrost's dream and asked her about the Starstone...

"Wait, isn't Featherfrost missing?" Fernheart wanted to take back her words as Twilightbreeze opened and closed her mouth, shaking her head.

"Fine, plan changed." She sighed. Definitely the longest sigh in the entire history of long sighs.

Twilightbreeze decided to walk into Brownshine, the medicine cat aka her former apprentice and asked about the Starstone. Then, Fernheart would help and cover Twilightbreeze's disappearance when she was in the Lake Territories and searched for it.

"What cover story?"

"Maybe I am running some errands?"

Fernheart could not deny, but this reason was definitely too weak.

"What about the purpose of searching it?"

"Really, I do not come here for you to question my sanity. I am just here to ask for your help."

"Why..."

"This was Birdflight's last words, don't you remember? You are too busy crying...Sorry," Twilightbreeze looked away, "Birdflight told me to find the Starstone. There must be a reason behind it, an urgent one. Why don't we give it a try?"

She did make a good point.

"So, whatever you two are discussing, care to share them out loud? Do you think I won't be eavesdropping?"

They were in big trouble.

☰★ Chapter 19

[image]

One small step.

One big step to the truth.

She was ready.

Twilightbreeze's heart was beating violently against her chest as she tried to take a deep breath to calm down.

According to the plan, everything would be alright...Unless...

She did not want to think further.

She glanced at the open field which the shiny cats were wondering in their dreams under the countless little stars. Their eyes pooled with sleepness as they yawned and closed their eyelids. Their thoughts slow as a beautiful carousel, dancing around their minds. Soon, they slowed down because of tiredness, carrying into another piece of wonderland.

She wished to be a part of them, wrapping in profound sleep, but she could not.

Tonight.

Now.

Decided whether their plan would succeed or not.

The only way to know the truth.

About Birdflight's death, strange last word.

Perhaps food poisoning and...Featherfrost's missing.

Her heart was hitting hard and painfully as she gasped, forgetting that she had stopped breathing.

SkyClan had called off the search of Featherfrost and claimed that she was missing. Everyone gave up hope.

But Twilightbreeze did not.

She was sure that her sister would not disappear for no reason. She was not that kind of cat.

Many strange things were happening, and she was becoming frustrated with the craziness of the events.

She did not have spaces for more.

Fire alone will save our clan.

Before there is peace, blood will spill blood, and the lake will run red.

Where was peace?

After solving a danger, another was on its way to trouble all.

Twilightbreeze's sigh echoed through the quiet and empty field, under the ghostly pale moonlight and twinkling stars which shone weakly.

She looked around as the pale moonlight made the cats barely visible under the cover of the night sky.

Normally, owls were hooting, the breeze was blowing, she could feel the relax under the beautiful scenery.

But the fire destroyed all.

Beautiful nature.

Her memories.

And her friend.

Her ears were ringing as she urged herself to head towards

Starpool, but her paws were glued to the ground.

She wanted to let go, wanted to throw all responsibilities behind and escaped from the terrible world.

She could not.

With a group of leaders and deputies that were thinking that they were telling tales.

StarClan would collapse for sure.

Without doubt.

Especially that a fight would soon occur between RiverClan and SkyClan.

She did not really know what to feel, terrified or glad.

Her heartbeat gave a steady but fast melody to the quiet night.

She took deep breaths and counted, "One, two, three, four..."

But her heartbeat did not co-operate.

She tried to convince herself that the plan was perfectly safe, as she knew breaking the rule of forbidding visiting the lake territories without permission would have huge consequences.

But if she asked for permission, her request would - of course - being denied. Which she could save her breath from asking.

After the surprising interruption of Mudblossom, they decided on a change of plan.

Fernheart would try her best to distract the other from spotting Twilightbreeze's disappearance. All Twilightbreeze had to do was to find and get the Starstone as quickly as she could. Then the mission completed.

Mudblossom sounded unconvinced by their explanation of thinking of a way to grow new herbs faster. And Twilightbreeze knew that

she was no fool. From the last sentence that she threw them before paddling away, *"You are hiding something, and I know it"*, she had a feeling that Mudblossom had heard enough of their plan.

But there was no back aways.

The plan sounded easy, but if anything went wrong...

Twilightbreeze refused to think. She squeezed all the thoughts and imagined putting them into an invisible cave, slamming it shut tightly.

A pebble landed right in front of her. It was the signal of 'all clear' from Fernheart. Twilightbreeze squeezed out a weak smile as she forced herself to go forward.

She was doing something wrong.

She knew it.

She was doing something wrong.

She knew it.

The scary thoughts came out of the spot where they ran around her mind, spitting her thoughts into madness and clouded her mind. She was left, emptied, without her soul.

The pale moonlight was weakened as the beast inside her awoke, came roaring in her head.

Her mind screamed, echoing in her heart.

She wanted to stay in a hole forever, not coming out.

But what about...

Birdflight?

Birdflight's voice rang in her ears...

"You can do this."

Featherfrost?

Featherfrost mewed...

"We need you."

SkyClan?

StarClan?

It was not the time for being weak.

It was the time for courage.

It was wrong.

But it would make things right.

And it was the only way.

Even if she was being caught, it would be worth.

If this could save her clan.

She felt the fear.

She took a step forward.

She felt the fear.

She took a step forward.

She found her confidence.

She took a step forward.

The flame of courage was burning in her heart.

She took a step forward.

The monster disappeared into nothing.

She had chosen the path - her life had chosen the path.

She was there for the first step.

She was ready.

She took one last glance into the dark sky and stepped into Starpool.

Her thoughts were separated into million pieces and different memories lingered in front of her eyes. She could not even take a glance before they glittered away. Her vision turned blur and became clear.

A roar broke through a wall of silence.

"Twilightbreeze!"

She was in big trouble again...

☰★ Chapter 20

[image]

The trees were veiled in the lightest of mists, their trunks somber brown with sable cracks that gnarl the bark. As Fernheart's eyes traveled to the edge of the woodland they become silhouettes against a cobweb of white, as if it is only daylight where she stood, as if she was encircled by twilight...

Until she felt her body was changed into a sitting position, she found that she was imagining.

Her vision was blurred and her mind was clouded, she could not see clearly. An echoed voice rang in her ears, breaking the silence.

"Meet you at Starpool at moonrise, pebble as a signal."

Her promise with Twilightbreeze.

And she was late.

She wanted to stand and run, but her mind would not even co-operate. She was left behind in the wood full of mist. She did not know why she was here, or what she was doing here. Fog of confusion wrapped around her as she let out a terrified mew.

"If I were you, I would stay still and shut up."

Fernheart wanted to ask a lot of questions, but she was smart enough to keep her mouth shut.

She felt like looking through a thick cover of fog, but she could still make up the white pelt of the cat.

She blinked, wanting to clear her vision but failed.

A black monster appeared in front of her eyes and rushed closer.

The air was too quiet that Fernheart could only hear her fast heartbeat, her lungs were screaming as she tried to gasp for breath.

She closed her eyes...

Silence.

She opened her eyes and hit a wall of darkness.

The fog had disappeared, the world had disappeared. She was left behind in this empty space.

She was helpless.

A voice rang in her eyes, "Tell me what were you talking with Twilightbreeze in the afternoon."

The voice was familiar.

She wanted to feed the cat with a bunch of lies, but before she could think of one, her mouth gave it away, "We are thinking of finding the starstone."

She wanted to punish herself for the slip, but she felt that her body had left her, her soul reminded.

She could not even control herself.

She remembered the sweetness before she took a bite of her fish and closed her eyes...

She was controlled?

The voice let out a nasty laugh, "You do not have to fight the herb, what a helpful little gift from your friend Twilightbreeze."

Twilightbreeze?

Why would she do that?

She discovered the herb of honesty.

And they used it on Fernheart.

Fernheart burst without the chance to control herself, "You are Mudblossom? I know that! See? I am so mousebrained, all your little tricks..."

Her voice was drowned by a high-pitched laugh, "You think it is that mousebrain? Really? She acts upon my actions. I can tell her to die if I want to."

Fernheart did not know what to say or what to feel. Whether she should feel guilty or angry.

She stayed quiet as she was searching for the correct word to describe what she felt. Then she realized that word did not even exist.

"Tell me the details of your plan, all of your plans."

Stop it.

She would not.

Stop it, come on.

She would not, come on.

She wanted to bite her tongue, or woke up with Twilightbreeze looking at her and said, "I have got the Starstone."

"Why should I tell you?" Come out of her mouth instead.

At least better than nothing.

"Huh? Because I want to know, that's all. Now, open up before I cut your tongue."

Shivers spread on her pelt as she let out a terrified mew again.

Fear blinded her eyes as the darkness spread without an end.

"Who are you?"

"It is not important."

"Why do you want to know about the starstone?"

"Again, it is none of your business."

"Why is Mudblossom with you?"

"Enough questions. Now, this is an order. Tell me, what plan is that?"

She heard a sweet voice convincing her.

Tell her. It would be no harm.

It played a soothing melody inside her head as the music danced around her head, calming her.

She wanted it to stop.

Once again fear found her. It spoke to her in its cackling voice. It told her paws to go weak, her stomach to lurch and her heart to ache. There was nothing to fear but fear itself, but still she could not silence its voice.

She wanted to fight back, but she was helpless, being trapped inside a nightmare.

She wondered why would this even happen on her.

The sweet voice echoed and danced inside her head as she let out a frustrating growl.

Maybe it would be no harm...

Her mind gave away before she could even cut her thought.

To Fernheart's worst nightmare, she spilled every single detail.

And as the pawsteps rang and echoed into her ears, she knew she had made a great mistake.

☰★ Chapter 21

[image]

"...Please report what you have found..."

The sound seemed far far away, more like a whisper of the breeze, echoed in Twilightbreeze's ears.

Found what?

Twilightbreeze felt mist clouded her vision as she looked around, struggling to break through the silver.

Shivers traveled through her spine as she let out a shaky breath, the memories of what happened haunted her mind. She had never thought that it would happen, but it did, she was experiencing it.

She did not really know what to feel, whether she should feel angry or sad. She wanted to stay strong, but she knew that she was breaking inside. Her heart was tearing up into pieces, shattered completely and screams echoed in her head.

She had never felt that miserable before, until now.

She did not blame Fernheart, she blamed herself, for falling in her trap again. Their friendship was being tested, and she finally knew.

The truth.

She was wrong again.

Her heart was beating fast as it broke through the silence. She was struggling to find the peace in her heart, hiding in the corner.

Hiding from the mess that was lied in front of her.

She did not want to admit that she was timid, but she was hiding from the reality. She wanted to curve into a ball where she could

live happily ever after...

She sank into the darkness...

A sharp light blinded her vision as she blinked, not knowing what had happened.

"Please report what you have found."

The voice was louder and clearer.

Twilightbreeze could not help but scowl at her foolish self, her ears were rose up as she calmed her heartbeat, listening to the conversation.

It must be a vision again...

"Report it now!"

Twilightbreeze could not help but gasp at the determinedness and fury that was under the voice.

Silence hit and it spread out into the endless mist.

Twilightbreeze's vision became blurred as she struggled to focus, but sleep was dragging her down into the world of happiness.

What did that mean?

[image]

Twilightbreeze felt her chest tightened as she saw that cat.

That cat shot her a nervous glance as Twilightbreeze returned it with ignorance.

She turned and asked Deafears, trying to act casually, "Have you ever wondered why Firestar, Jayfeather, Bramblestar were not here? I really would like to mee them!"

Deafears broke the glance between him and Fernheart as he mewed with tense, "I...I...have never thought of that before...I mean...why should we care...?"

Twilightbreeze did not know why either, all she wanted to do was making everything seem as natural as possible.

She headed towards the fresh-kill pile and took a mouse as Deafears sat beside her with a squirrel. She took a big bite as the juicy taste filled her dry mouth.

She wanted to forget all the bad things that happened to her, but she could not stop herself from looking at Fernheart.

The white pelted she-cat with grey spots was sitting at the far end of the corner, her eyes filled with sorrow.

Twilightbreeze did not really know what to say as she stuffed the rest of her mouse quickly. After a short farewell to Deafears, she headed for the Sunningforest to help with the cleaning as a punishment for breaking the rule.

She would have given herself a reason to forgive Fernheart if she did not bother her again, she was her friend after all.

Although she felt betrayed.

Although she did not know whether she could trust her anymore.

Although she would have the perfect excuse to back away for herself.

But she could not let go.

She could not.

She did not understand.

She did not know how many times she had told herself to let go.

But she did not, could not and would not.

She heard the hurry pawsteps of Fernheart as she turned, faking a smile on her masked face.

Fernheart was struggling to take a deep breath as she mewed, "I

want to..."

"Say sorry? It is a bit too late, isn't it?"

"I mean..."

"You are very sincere this time?"

"No, I found..."

"That you cannot live without me? Cool. I just know that."

"Other than that..."

"Okay, um, you have found out the ending of the mysterious yellow liquid incident? I would like to listen to your ending and give you a few praise."

"It's about Mudblossom!"

The shout blasted through the cleaning as every cat aims his gaze at them.

Fernheart licked her front chest fur as she lowered her voice to a whisper.

"I know that..."

"What should I care?"

Twilightbreeze snapped back. She felt that she was exploding, she could not control herself anymore.

"You just want to seek for attention, right? I know you far too well. You are. Are you going to feed me some details that make me chase after some random cat and acting foolish? Cool. I love this idea. Go on and try it out."

Fernheart clearly wanted to defend herself as she opened her mouth, then she shut it tight.

Although Twilightbreeze felt slightly guilty for her outburst, she still remembered the time when Fernheart broke her heart several

times. All her anger gathered as she spat out her last words as she walked away.

"Leave me alone please."

☰★ Fanart

[image]

Here is a collection of fanart and fan aesthetic for Shooting Star. Fanarts and fan aesthetics are always greatly appreciated by me as I love them. Thanks for all of your supports!

Whitestripe, Songberry (At the back from left to right), Twilightbreeze and Featherfrost (At the front from left to right)

[image]

By firestarblazing

Fernheart

[image]

By Lunathealphawolf

Twilightbreeze

[image]

By Lunathealphawolf

If you want to draw a fanart or make a fan aesthetic too, feel free to do that! Remember to tell me and tag me!

☰★ Note

It has been a long time since I clicked open this book and read the content, remembering the times when I forgot everything around me and wrote and wrote and wrote.

I loved writing Shooting Star, I loved the characters, I loved everything about it and I hope I still do. Shooting Star was the reason why I knew most of you, and it was a place where I finally found me. How I wished everything could stay the same, and how I hoped I could be the younger me.

Time flies, 5 months have already passed since I announced the hiatus of this book. Now, I find myself cringed at every single word that I have written in the past. I wonder why people will say this book is their favourite book because of how much I hate every single part of it.

I mean, I don't hate it, but I am ashamed of this book. Ashamed of my ridiculous content and my ridiculous story. Also, time makes me move on and here I am. I start new projects, I challenge myself more and more by writing Camouflage, Colourblind and Medicine. I try to forget about Shooting Star and I try not to think about how many of you anxiously waiting for the ending.

I feel sorry, sorry for leaving all of you, every single one of you who are wonderful human beings, without an ending of the book. I can't stop thinking about how you support me throughout hard times and how you wait patiently for every single update, and it only makes

me guiltier because I don't think I deserve the spotlight since I hang you all up like that.

I know the feeling of waiting for a book's ending. It is hard and I am the one who puts you all into that hard time. I am sorry for what I have done, because what I have told myself, "I can't do it, I can't make it."

It hurts me when I set my eyes on this book, how it will never be completed. But it stresses me even harder when I have to continue this book, which I already lose interest and motivation in.

I should have given this book an ending, for all of you who is reading this. But I cannot bring myself to. I can't bring myself to read through this book and see how trashy my writings are. I can't bring myself to continue writing this book because of the lack of time and the lack of energy.

I have thought about this thoroughly, and I am here to apologize for betraying you. Leading into the world of Shooting Star and chasing you away with an awful short note like this.

I am sorry. I mean it.

Since all of you deserve this and far more, here is the ending and the known plots for book 2 and book 3:

book 1 - Ending of Shooting Star

Twilightbreeze had a vision at night about a glowing crystal, a secret tunnel, a pathway and a prophecy . She was completing her punishment the next day when Ravenwind was there to make fun of her. After Ravenwind left, she discovered a secret tunnel.

Wanting to explore, she walked through the tunnel and ended up in a two-leg world. Following the scent of a familiar cat that she could not recognise at that time, she found the crystal in her vision in a kitchen and kept it, since she thought it was important. Later, when she returned back to StarClan, she was assigned to clear up the burnt forest.

She came across the mysterious house where Mudblossom led

Fernheart too. She saw the special shape and found that the crystal could fit in. After putting the crystal in, the door opened, revealing a pathway. The pathway reminded her of the prophecy and it was too late

" the brightness of stars covered the shadow of death,
the normal stone became the hidden gold "

book 2 - Falling Sky

Blazesky was alive. He was hiding in the streets, but he knew that he had one goal - reaching StarClan. He did nothing wrong but he was exiled, simply because he knew too much.

He was betrayed by his friend and was soon caught by the dark side. Surprisingly, he met his crush - Featherfrost. Together, they escaped the place with the guidance of Featherfrost and went to StarClan using the secret tunnel. StarClan was already at war since Twilightbreeze discovered that the current StarClan was fake (which was hinted in Shooting Star) and alerted the leaders and deputies. It took several persuasions for them to act and it was already too late.

Without new members in the real StarClan, it was too weak to defend themselves. The StarClan members became to fight with the dark side when Blazesky joined in the fight. Featherfrost was separated with Blazesky when Featherfrost had to go and prepare to fight.

Meanwhile, Ravenwind was thinking about the vision that Twilightbreeze told her a few nights ago, a black cat with a dark spirit. After the cat was killed, the spirit was gone.

More cats from the dark side came into real StarClan ground and Featherfrost was nowhere to be seen. Being worried, Blazesky tried and found Featherfrost but discovered that she opened some other secret pathways and let the dark forest cats get in.

Blazesky did not confront her directly since he did not believe what he had just seen. He told the members of StarClan and they planned to ask Twilightbreeze and Blazesky to talk to her and observe her

actions before defeating her.

Twilightbreeze and Blazesky agreed and set off. However, their plan went wrong when Featherfrost found them observing her. The dark forest cats ambushing them and Whitestripe came to the recuse, sacrificing his life to save Blazesky and Twilightbreeze.

Heavily wounded, they returned back to the group with the bad news and thought about the next move.

book 3 - Flickering Hope

Ravenwind was having flashbacks on her life before she told everyone the plan. Hiding the fact that she was adopted by her family and did not actually know her parents, she was cold and distrustful, scaring that someone would abandon her.

Later, she was sent to the dark forest in her dreams, meeting her parents. Knowing her parents were fighting for the dark side all the time, she vowed to destroy the dark forest and bring peace to everyone. She confronted her parents and her parents told her that it was impossible for her to see the fall of the dark forest, because the dark forest would never ever fall without her knowing the truth.

When she knew about Deafears, Deafears made her think of herself, therefore she cared so much about Deafears. But she knew her death would be soon, since the dark forest would not let her go that easily. On that fateful night, she was killed by her dad by controlling the driver's mind to teach her a lesson.

Meanwhile, Deafears was brainwashed by the dark side at night. He vowed to listen to them as he wanted to prove to his father that he was doing the right thing all along. He hid and constructed the secret pathways, also befriending Twilightbreeze to control her actions.

Later, Deafears came to his senses when he realized he was doing the wrong thing all along. He volunteered to fight the dark forest and do the most dangerous job, but his plan was denied by Ravenwind.

Ravenwind said she knew the only way to destroy the dark forest - she should be killed by the dark forest to destroy the spirit inside her that her parents gave. Since the dark forest knew about it, they would have to trick them instead.

Every cat was hesitant, but after Ravenwind's insist, they agreed.

Playing a little trick, Ravenwind was killed and the spirit was destroyed. The power of the dark forest was lost and now StarClan is back to its peaceful state, but the pain could never be forgotten.

If you have any question regarding the plot that I have not explained clearly, please ask here --->

Lastly, I want to thank every single one of you for reading this book, even if it might not be completed at the end which I am incredibly sorry. I hope you are shocked by the plot and I will really appreciate votes and comments even though I know I don't deserve them

If you want me to do a trivia or behind the scene, tell me and I will add a page for them

If you like this story, please check out my other works as well, such as Camouflage (a thriller mystery), Colourblind (a sad short story about BLM) and Medicine (a choose your adventure book)

Love you all, and see you all soon

Twilight

[image]